

# Philadelphians Speak Up About Barriers to College Completion: A #RealCollegePHL Report

## WEB APPENDICES

September 29, 2021

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## Appendix A. Survey Methodology

The Hope Center worked with Temple University’s Institute for Survey Research (ISR) to field this survey. Specifically, our collaboration was with BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup>, which ISR owns, manages, and operates. BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup> is a group of community members who have “opted in” and agreed to take surveys and participate in ongoing research driven by local government and nonprofit organizations and initiatives. Survey questions were developed by the Hope Center and refined and programmed in Qualtrics, an electronic survey platform, by ISR. See Appendix D for survey questions.

In October and November 2020, ISR sent the survey to 2,593 members of their BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup> panel who were between the ages of 20 and 45. Depending on their preference, BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup> members received the initial contact for the survey via email or text message, with a link to complete the survey on the web. Eight hundred members responded to the survey, resulting in a 30.8% response rate for this method of distribution. ISR also launched a targeted Facebook ad to seek additional responses from non-White Philadelphians younger than 45, and an additional 100 Philadelphians responded. Each member of BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup> shares demographic information upon joining the panel; non-members who participated in the survey via the Facebook ad were required to supply demographic information at the beginning of the survey. Following the close of data collection, 10 respondents were randomly selected to receive a \$30 gift card.

In all, 900 Philadelphians responded to the survey. Six responses were excluded from analysis because the respondent completed less than four survey questions or reported a zip code outside of the Philadelphia city limits. The survey completion rate is the proportion of all respondents who completed the survey (i.e., answered all of the questions that were posed to all respondents). Among those included in analyses, 86.6% of survey respondents fully completed the survey.

## Appendix B. Weighting Methodology and Survey Respondent Characteristics

### WEIGHTING METHODOLOGY

Analyses of this survey data use weights to produce estimates that are more representative of the Philadelphia population. ISR weighted the final data to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2019 American Communities Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).<sup>1</sup> The weighting process, known as iterative proportional fitting, aligns the survey totals with known population totals across key subgroups.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, data from this survey are weighted based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, highest level of education, and household income level for Philadelphians between the ages of 20 and 45.

When creating weights using this methodology, respondents in subgroups that are less represented in the survey (across all measured characteristics) are assigned larger weights, while those in subgroups

that are more represented are assigned smaller weights. Due to small cross-classification cell sizes (small numbers of respondents with a given combination of demographic characteristics), weights in this survey would have been inappropriately large.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, they were trimmed. This helps to explain why these weighted survey data are *more closely representative* of the Philadelphia population, but not *exactly representative*.

No survey respondents had missing values for any of the weighting characteristics, since these questions were required for both BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup> members and those who responded to the Facebook ad (see above). However, some respondents selected response categories that were present in the demographic questions posed to them, but not in ACS data. Specifically, 25 respondents selected a gender other than male or female, and 47 respondents selected "prefer not to answer" on the question about income. These responses were imputed using a *hot-deck* procedure for the purpose of constructing survey weights. Analyses in this report use their original values.

Table B-1 shows the demographic characteristics that were used to weight the survey data for the Philadelphia population (as captured by ACS PUMS data), the unweighted survey data, and the weighted survey data. For the analyses in this report, it is especially important to note the distribution of education level overrepresents individuals with a bachelor’s or higher, while underrepresenting those who have not attended college.

When considering this and other tables that report on characteristics of all or a subset of survey respondents, it is important to pay attention to which subgroups are “upweighted” (adjusted to form a larger proportion of the sample, as in the “20 to 24” age category) and “downweighted” (adjusted to form a smaller proportion of the sample, as in the “35 to 45” age category). These adjustments, which help the survey data be more representative of the Philadelphia population, can sometimes account for discrepancies between unweighted and weighted results of other survey questions.

**TABLE B-1 | CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PHILADELPHIA POPULATION, UNWEIGHTED SURVEY ESTIMATES, AND WEIGHTED SURVEY ESTIMATES**

|                           | Population Totals |    | Survey Totals (Unweighted) |    | Survey Totals (Weighted) |    |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
|                           | N                 | %  | N                          | %  | N                        | %  |
| <b>Gender</b>             |                   |    |                            |    |                          |    |
| Female                    | 328,936           | 52 | 603                        | 67 | 596                      | 67 |
| Male                      | 303,365           | 48 | 266                        | 30 | 264                      | 30 |
| Other                     | --                | -- | 25                         | 3  | 35                       | 4  |
| <b>Race</b>               |                   |    |                            |    |                          |    |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 53,573            | 8  | 41                         | 5  | 93                       | 10 |
| Black                     | 233,050           | 37 | 236                        | 26 | 279                      | 31 |
| White                     | 269,206           | 43 | 556                        | 62 | 411                      | 46 |
| Other/Two or more         | 76,472            | 12 | 61                         | 7  | 114                      | 13 |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>          |                   |    |                            |    |                          |    |
| Hispanic                  | 100,593           | 16 | 63                         | 7  | 139                      | 16 |

|  |         |    |     |    |     |    |
|--|---------|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Non-Hispanic                                     | 531,708 | 84 | 831 | 93 | 757 | 84 |
| <b>Age</b>                                       |         |    |     |    |     |    |
| 20 to 24   | 108,643 | 17 | 38  | 4  | 138 | 15 |
| 25 to 29   | 154,216 | 24 | 138 | 15 | 236 | 26 |
| 30 to 34   | 148,849 | 24 | 258 | 29 | 236 | 26 |
| 35 to 45   | 220,593 | 35 | 460 | 51 | 287 | 32 |
| <b>Highest Level of Education</b>                |         |    |     |    |     |    |
| No college                                       | 230,904 | 37 | 35  | 4  | 186 | 21 |
| Some college, certificate, or associate's degree | 163,567 | 26 | 113 | 13 | 236 | 26 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                      | 237,830 | 38 | 746 | 83 | 474 | 53 |
| <b>Income</b>                                    |         |    |     |    |     |    |
| Less than \$14,999                               | 83,146  | 13 | 59  | 7  | 107 | 12 |
| \$15,000 to \$24,999                             | 48,587  | 8  | 52  | 6  | 30  | 3  |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999                             | 48,217  | 8  | 72  | 8  | 68  | 8  |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999                             | 82,730  | 13 | 119 | 13 | 106 | 12 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999                             | 97,509  | 15 | 171 | 19 | 111 | 12 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999                             | 82,549  | 13 | 145 | 16 | 156 | 17 |
| \$100,000 or more                                | 189,563 | 30 | 229 | 26 | 220 | 25 |
| Prefer not to answer                             | --      | -- | 47  | 5  | 98  | 11 |

Source | 2019 ACS PUMS, College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The “other” category under gender and “prefer not to answer” category under income were present in the demographic questions asked of survey respondents, but not in ACS data. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error. See above in Appendix B for more information about weighting.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Most figures in this report focus on respondents who have completed some college without finishing a degree, and those who have never attended college. However, in order to contextualize those respondents relative to others who completed the survey, and have an informed reading of figures that include data from all respondents (Figures 1, 13, and 14), it is important to understand the full range of educational backgrounds they represent.

Our data includes two measures of educational attainment:

- 1) The standard Census-based question that all BeHeardPhilly<sup>SM</sup> members answer upon joining the panel, which was used for weighting.

*What is your highest level of education?*

- 9th - 12th grade (no diploma)
- High school graduate or GED
- Some college (no degree)
- Vocational/trade school

- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate degree

2) An original survey question, which was used to determine which questions were presented during the survey and which respondents were counted as having completed some college or no college.

*Which most accurately applies to you as of today:*

- I never attended college.
- I am currently attending college.
- I attended some college, but left and did not complete a degree or certificate.
- I graduated from college with a certificate.
- I graduated from college with an Associate's degree.
- I graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree.
- I graduated from college with at least one advanced degree (for example, a Masters, PhD, JD, or MD)

A few respondents gave seemingly conflicting information for the two educational attainment questions. All analyses were run with those respondents excluded, and none were meaningfully different from results where they were included.

Table B-2 presents responses to each of these questions for all respondents. A large proportion of respondents had advanced degrees, which may influence results for analyses that include respondents with a college degree.

**TABLE B-2 | DETAILED EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF ALL RESPONDENTS**

|   | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---|------------|----|----------|----|
|   | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>What is your highest level of education?</b>                                 |            |    |          |    |
| 9th-12th grade (no diploma)   | 6          | 1  | 12       | 1  |
| High school graduate or GED   | 29         | 3  | 173      | 19 |
| Some college (no degree)  | 78         | 9  | 148      | 17 |
| Vocational/trade school   | 17         | 2  | 34       | 4  |
| Associate's degree  | 18         | 2  | 54       | 6  |
| Bachelor's degree   | 392        | 44 | 231      | 26 |
| Graduate degree   | 354        | 40 | 244      | 27 |
| <b>Which most accurately applies to you as of today?</b>                        |            |    |          |    |
| I never attended college.   | 32         | 4  | 117      | 13 |
| I am currently attending college.   | 24         | 3  | 89       | 10 |
| I attended some college, but left and did not complete a degree or certificate. | 77         | 9  | 138      | 15 |
| I graduated from college with a certificate.                                    | 6          | 1  | 5        | 1  |
| I graduated from college with an Associate's degree.                            | 21         | 2  | 62       | 7  |

|   |     |    |     |    |
|---|-----|----|-----|----|
| I graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree.          | 367 | 41 | 220 | 25 |
| I graduated from college with at least one advanced degree. | 367 | 41 | 265 | 30 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error. See above in Appendix B for more information about weighting.

## ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Table B-3 shows the race and ethnicity of all respondents using the same categories as Figure 2 of the report, where they are combined into a single characteristic with non-overlapping categories. Respondents who selected that their ethnicity was Hispanic are counted as Hispanic and excluded from other categories (Asian, Black, White, and Other/Two or More).

**TABLE B-3 | RACE/ETHNICITY OF ALL RESPONDENTS, AS REPORTED IN FIGURES**

| Race/Ethnicity            | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---------------------------|------------|----|----------|----|
|                           | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 41         | 5  | 93       | 10 |
| Hispanic                  | 63         | 7  | 139      | 16 |
| Black                     | 224        | 25 | 254      | 28 |
| White                     | 540        | 60 | 383      | 43 |
| Other/Two or More         | 26         | 3  | 28       | 3  |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error. See above in Appendix B for more information about weighting.

Figures 9–11 and 13–14 of the report show results for “Philadelphia respondents with college ambitions”—respondents who had either 1) not yet attended college or 2) previously attended college without completing a degree or certificate, and aspire to complete some form of postsecondary credential. Table B-4 shows the characteristics of these respondents. (Characteristics of respondents who have not completed college, the population of interest for Figures 2 through 8, can be found in Table C-2.)

**TABLE B-4 | CHARACTERISTICS OF PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WITH COLLEGE AMBITIONS**

| Gender                    | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---------------------------|------------|----|----------|----|
|                           | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| Female                    | 49         | 82 | 80       | 87 |
| Male                      | 10         | 17 | 6        | 6  |
| Other                     | 1          | 2  | 6        | 7  |
| Race/Ethnicity            |            |    |          |    |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 3          | 5  | 19       | 21 |
| Hispanic                  | 2          | 3  | 4        | 5  |

|                              |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Black                        | 36 | 60 | 55 | 60 |
| White                        | 19 | 32 | 14 | 15 |
| Other/Two or More            | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| <b>Age</b>                   |    |    |    |    |
| 20-24                        | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| 25-29                        | 8  | 13 | 23 | 25 |
| 30-34                        | 10 | 17 | 12 | 13 |
| 35-44                        | 42 | 70 | 57 | 62 |
| <b>Location</b>              |    |    |    |    |
| Center City                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Far Northeast Philadelphia   | 4  | 7  | 18 | 19 |
| Lower Northeast Philadelphia | 8  | 13 | 8  | 8  |
| North Philadelphia           | 13 | 22 | 14 | 15 |
| Northwest Philadelphia       | 8  | 13 | 9  | 9  |
| River Wards                  | 4  | 7  | 3  | 3  |
| South Philadelphia           | 7  | 12 | 17 | 19 |
| Southwest Philadelphia       | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| West Philadelphia            | 16 | 27 | 24 | 26 |
| <b>Income</b>                |    |    |    |    |
| Less than \$14,999           | 8  | 13 | 4  | 4  |
| \$15,000-\$24,999            | 9  | 15 | 4  | 5  |
| \$25,000-\$34,999            | 11 | 18 | 5  | 5  |
| \$35,000-\$49,999            | 8  | 13 | 19 | 21 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999            | 9  | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| \$75,000-\$99,999            | 1  | 2  | 5  | 5  |
| \$100,000 or more            | 6  | 10 | 19 | 20 |
| Prefer not to answer         | 8  | 13 | 22 | 24 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding error. See above in Appendix B for more information about weighting.

## Appendix C. Detailed Tables on Data Referenced in the Full Report

**TABLE C-1 | COLLEGE ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION OF PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS (FIGURE 1)**

|                       | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|-----------------------|------------|----|----------|----|
|                       | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| Attended and finished | 761        | 85 | 553      | 62 |
| Currently attending   | 24         | 3  | 89       | 10 |

|                          |    |   |     |    |
|--------------------------|----|---|-----|----|
| Attended, did not finish | 77 | 9 | 138 | 15 |
| Never attended           | 32 | 4 | 117 | 13 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | “Attended and finished” includes respondents who reported graduating from college with a postsecondary certificate, associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree, or an advanced degree. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-2 | GENDER, RACE/ETHNICITY, AGE, LOCATION, AND INCOME OF PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 2)**

|   | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---|------------|----|----------|----|
|   | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>Gender</b>                             |            |    |          |    |
| Female                                    | 82         | 75 | 184      | 72 |
| Male                                      | 26         | 24 | 64       | 25 |
| Other                                     | 1          | 1  | 6        | 3  |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>                     |            |    |          |    |
| Asian or Pacific Islander                 | 3          | 3  | 19       | 8  |
| Hispanic                                  | 11         | 10 | 49       | 19 |
| Black                                     | 54         | 50 | 134      | 52 |
| White                                     | 40         | 37 | 53       | 21 |
| Other/Two or more                         | 1          | 1  | <1       | <1 |
| <b>Age</b>                                |            |    |          |    |
| 20-24                                     | 0          | 0  | 0        | 0  |
| 25-29                                     | 13         | 12 | 47       | 19 |
| 30-34                                     | 22         | 20 | 66       | 26 |
| 35-44                                     | 74         | 68 | 141      | 55 |
| <b>Location (NOT SHOWN IN THE FIGURE)</b> |            |    |          |    |
| Center City                               | 4          | 4  | 15       | 6  |
| Far Northeast Philadelphia                | 7          | 6  | 20       | 8  |
| Lower Northeast Philadelphia              | 13         | 12 | 32       | 12 |
| North Philadelphia                        | 28         | 26 | 73       | 29 |
| Northwest Philadelphia                    | 11         | 10 | 27       | 11 |
| River Wards                               | 9          | 8  | 12       | 5  |
| South Philadelphia                        | 14         | 13 | 31       | 12 |
| Southwest Philadelphia                    | 5          | 5  | 16       | 6  |
| West Philadelphia                         | 18         | 17 | 30       | 12 |
| <b>Income (NOT SHOWN IN THE FIGURE)</b>   |            |    |          |    |
| Less than \$14,999                        | 19         | 17 | 55       | 22 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999                         | 11         | 10 | 6        | 2  |
| \$25,000-\$34,999                         | 15         | 14 | 9        | 4  |
| \$35,000-\$49,999                         | 13         | 12 | 48       | 19 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999                         | 19         | 17 | 42       | 17 |
| \$75,000-\$99,999                         | 5          | 5  | 6        | 2  |



|                      |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| \$100,000 or more    | 12 | 11 | 34 | 13 |
| Prefer not to answer | 15 | 14 | 55 | 22 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Results are among respondents who have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. Race and ethnicity were asked in separate questions; this analysis combines them into a single characteristic with non-overlapping categories. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-3 | PERCEIVED AFFORDABILITY OF PHILADELPHIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 3)**

|  | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>Community College of Philadelphia</b> |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 6          | 6  | 20       | 9  |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 47         | 49 | 136      | 63 |
| Very affordable                          | 42         | 44 | 60       | 28 |
| <b>Orleans Technical College</b>         |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 7          | 18 | 21       | 20 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 25         | 64 | 69       | 65 |
| Very affordable                          | 7          | 18 | 16       | 15 |
| <b>Temple University</b>                 |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 35         | 47 | 73       | 40 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 37         | 49 | 100      | 55 |
| Very affordable                          | 3          | 4  | 8        | 4  |
| <b>Peirce College</b>                    |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 24         | 41 | 68       | 45 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 28         | 48 | 71       | 47 |
| Very affordable                          | 6          | 10 | 11       | 7  |
| <b>La Salle University</b>               |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 44         | 61 | 79       | 52 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 25         | 35 | 73       | 48 |
| Very affordable                          | 3          | 4  | 1        | <1 |
| <b>Chestnut Hill College</b>             |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 30         | 55 | 87       | 59 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 19         | 35 | 57       | 39 |
| Very affordable                          | 6          | 11 | 4        | 3  |
| <b>Drexel University</b>                 |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 64         | 80 | 96       | 62 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 16         | 20 | 58       | 38 |
| Very affordable                          | 0          | 0  | 0        | 0  |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Survey respondents could select “I don’t know” instead of a level of affordability, but results are drawn from those who selected a level of affordability. Results are among respondents who have either attended college

without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-4 | PERCEIVED AFFORDABILITY OF PHILADELPHIA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED COLLEGE (PAGE 12)**

|  | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>Community College of Philadelphia</b> |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 11         | 2  | <1       | <1 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 146        | 23 | 87       | 19 |
| Very affordable                          | 489        | 76 | 360      | 81 |
| <b>Orleans Technical College</b>         |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 31         | 18 | 14       | 14 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 73         | 41 | 39       | 40 |
| Very affordable                          | 73         | 41 | 45       | 46 |
| <b>Temple University</b>                 |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 143        | 22 | 101      | 21 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 395        | 62 | 286      | 59 |
| Very affordable                          | 104        | 16 | 98       | 20 |
| <b>Peirce College</b>                    |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 69         | 32 | 57       | 39 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 105        | 49 | 59       | 41 |
| Very affordable                          | 41         | 19 | 28       | 19 |
| <b>La Salle University</b>               |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 234        | 56 | 161      | 53 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 170        | 41 | 135      | 45 |
| Very affordable                          | 14         | 3  | 7        | 2  |
| <b>Chestnut Hill College</b>             |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 157        | 59 | 99       | 54 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 95         | 36 | 76       | 41 |
| Very affordable                          | 12         | 5  | 9        | 5  |
| <b>Drexel University</b>                 |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable                           | 532        | 83 | 409      | 85 |
| Somewhat affordable                      | 96         | 15 | 64       | 13 |
| Very affordable                          | 12         | 2  | 5        | 1  |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Survey respondents could select “I don’t know” instead of a level of affordability, but results are drawn from those who selected a level of affordability. Results are among respondents who *have* attended college and completed a degree (including an associate’s, bachelor’s, or advanced degree) or certificate. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-5 | PERCEIVED AFFORDABILITY OF BASIC NEEDS FOR PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE STUDENTS, AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 4)**

|                     | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---------------------|------------|----|----------|----|
|                     | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>Food</b>         |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable      | 17         | 16 | 28       | 12 |
| Somewhat affordable | 74         | 70 | 176      | 74 |
| Very affordable     | 15         | 14 | 35       | 15 |
| <b>Rent</b>         |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable      | 55         | 53 | 94       | 40 |
| Somewhat affordable | 47         | 45 | 138      | 60 |
| Very affordable     | 2          | 2  | <1       | <1 |
| <b>SEPTA</b>        |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable      | 21         | 20 | 27       | 12 |
| Somewhat affordable | 63         | 61 | 138      | 60 |
| Very affordable     | 20         | 19 | 67       | 29 |
| <b>Childcare</b>    |            |    |          |    |
| Not affordable      | 68         | 67 | 101      | 44 |
| Somewhat affordable | 34         | 33 | 128      | 56 |
| Very affordable     | 0          | 0  | 0        | 0  |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Survey respondents could *not* select “I don’t know” instead of a level of affordability for living expenses. Results are among respondents who have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. SEPTA = Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, the public transit system in Philadelphia. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-6 | EXPOSURE TO COLLEGE-RELATED FINANCIAL CHALLENGES, AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 5)**

| "At least some people I know who went to college..."                         | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| ... are in financial trouble because of student debt."                       | 85         | 79 | 171      | 68 |
| ...experienced trouble paying for food or housing because of college costs." | 53         | 49 | 99       | 39 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The survey presented statements about college-related financial challenges, and respondents could select that the statement applied to “none,” “a few,” “some,” “many,” or “all” people they know in Philadelphia who went to college. This table displays the percentage of respondents who selected that “some,” “many,” or “all” of the people they knew experienced each challenge. Results are among respondents who have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-7 | PERCEPTIONS ABOUT OTHERS' COLLEGE EXPERIENCES, AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 6)**

|   | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---|------------|----|----------|----|
|   | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>"They are better off for having gone to college."</b>                    |            |    |          |    |
| None or a few people I know who went to college                             | 40         | 37 | 140      | 55 |
| Some people I know who went to college                                      | 28         | 26 | 47       | 19 |
| Many or all people I know who went to college                               | 40         | 37 | 66       | 26 |
| <b>"They should not have gone to college."</b>                              |            |    |          |    |
| None or a few people I know who went to college                             | 76         | 70 | 196      | 78 |
| Some people I know who went to college                                      | 27         | 25 | 43       | 17 |
| Many or all people I know who went to college                               | 5          | 5  | 13       | 5  |
| <b>"They are living better lives than me because they went to college."</b> |            |    |          |    |
| None or a few people I know who went to college                             | 54         | 50 | 154      | 61 |
| Some people I know who went to college                                      | 27         | 25 | 40       | 16 |
| Many or all people I know who went to college                               | 27         | 25 | 59       | 23 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The survey presented statements about perceptions of others' college experiences, and respondents could select that the statement applied to "none," "a few," "some," "many," or "all" people they know in Philadelphia who went to college. This table combines "none" with "a few," and "many" with "all." Results are among respondents who have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-8 | LIKELIHOOD OF RECOMMENDING COLLEGE TO A LOVED ONE, AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 7)**

| To what extent would you recommend to someone you love that they go to college? | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---|------------|----|----------|----|
|   | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| Recommend or strongly recommend   | 71         | 66 | 171      | 68 |
| Neutral   | 25         | 23 | 53       | 21 |
| Not recommend or strongly not recommend   | 12         | 11 | 29       | 11 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The survey asked respondents if they would "strongly not recommend," "not recommend," "neither recommend nor not recommend," "recommend," or "strongly recommend" to someone they love that they go to college. This table combines "strongly not recommend" with "not recommend," and "recommend" with "strongly recommend." Results are among respondents who have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-9 | EDUCATIONAL AMBITIONS OF PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 8)**

|  | Unweighted |   | Weighted |   |
|--|------------|---|----------|---|
|  | N          | % | N        | % |
| Wants to pursue a degree beyond a bachelor's | 7          | 6 | 20       | 8 |

|  |    |    |     |    |
|--|----|----|-----|----|
| Wants to complete a bachelor's degree                              | 25 | 23 | 27  | 11 |
| Wants to complete post-secondary certificate or associate's degree | 28 | 26 | 45  | 18 |
| Wants to complete high school                                      | 8  | 7  | 21  | 8  |
| Satisfied with current level of education                          | 41 | 38 | 142 | 56 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Results are among respondents who have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-10 | PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO ATTENDED AND LEFT A PHILADELPHIA-AREA COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY (PAGE 19)**

|  | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>Respondents who attended college but did not complete</b>       |            |    |          |    |
| Attended and left a Philadelphia-area college or university        | 41         | 53 | 42       | 30 |
| <i>Of the above, interested in being contacted about returning</i> | 10         | 24 | 16       | 39 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Results are among respondents who have attended college without completing a degree or certificate. The percentage of respondents interested in being contacted about returning is among those who attended and left a Philadelphia-area college or university. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-11 | REASONS TO PURSUE COLLEGE EDUCATION AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE (FIGURE 9)**

|   | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---|------------|----|----------|----|
|   | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| To make more money                      | 42         | 70 | 78       | 84 |
| To get a job or advance at work         | 31         | 52 | 55       | 60 |
| To learn                                | 24         | 40 | 49       | 53 |
| To support and/or inspire people I love | 13         | 22 | 30       | 33 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Results are among respondents who 1) have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college and 2) aspire to complete some form of postsecondary credential. Responses of "other" were excluded from the figure as no respondent selected that option. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-12 | PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD OF ACHIEVING COLLEGE AMBITIONS AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE (FIGURE 10)**

|                           | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|---------------------------|------------|----|----------|----|
|                           | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| Likely or very likely     | 14         | 23 | 11       | 12 |
| Undecided                 | 13         | 22 | 40       | 43 |
| Very unlikely or unlikely | 33         | 55 | 42       | 45 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The survey presented perceived likelihood on a five-point scale: “very unlikely,” “unlikely,” “neutral or undecided,” “likely,” and “very likely.” This figure combines “very unlikely” with “unlikely,” and “likely” with “very likely.” Results are among respondents who 1) have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college and 2) aspire to complete some form of postsecondary credential. Cumulative percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-13 | REPORTED BARRIERS TO COLLEGE ATTAINMENT AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE (FIGURE 11)**

|  | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| Wouldn't have enough money to pay tuition              | 45         | 75 | 72       | 78 |
| Wouldn't have enough money to cover living expenses    | 27         | 45 | 49       | 53 |
| Wouldn't have access to affordable childcare           | 9          | 15 | 35       | 38 |
| Has physical or mental health challenges               | 15         | 25 | 28       | 31 |
| Not enough information about how to continue education | 14         | 23 | 20       | 22 |
| Concerned about job loss or cuts to hours              | 10         | 17 | 10       | 11 |
| Not enough encouragement or support                    | 7          | 12 | 7        | 8  |
| Other  | 2          | 3  | 7        | 7  |
| Can't find local program of interest                   | 8          | 13 | 6        | 6  |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Results are among respondents who 1) have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college and 2) aspire to complete some form of postsecondary credential. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-14 | STUDENT DEBT OF PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED BUT NOT COMPLETED COLLEGE (FIGURE 12)**

|                               | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|-------------------------------|------------|----|----------|----|
|                               | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| More than \$30,000            | 16         | 21 | 19       | 14 |
| Between \$10,001 and \$30,000 | 11         | 14 | 8        | 6  |
| \$10,000 or less              | 16         | 21 | 42       | 30 |
| No educational debt           | 34         | 44 | 69       | 50 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | Results are among respondents who have attended college without completing a degree or certificate. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-15 | SUPPORT FOR FREE TUITION PROPOSALS, OVERALL AND AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE (FIGURE 13)**

| "I would support an increase in taxes in order to provide free tuition at... | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>...the Community College of Philadelphia."</b>                            |            |    |          |    |
| Overall  | 586        | 67 | 491      | 56 |
| Among Philadelphia respondents who aspire to enroll in college               | 34         | 57 | 45       | 48 |
| <b>...Temple University."</b>  |            |    |          |    |
| Overall  | 394        | 45 | 359      | 41 |
| Among Philadelphia respondents who aspire to enroll in college               | 36         | 60 | 45       | 49 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The survey presented statements about free tuition proposals on a five-point scale: "strongly disagree," "disagree," "neither agree nor disagree," "agree," and "strongly agree." This figure shows the percentage of respondents who selected "agree" or "strongly agree." Results for "Philadelphia Respondents Who Aspire to Enroll in College" are among respondents who 1) have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college and 2) aspire to complete some form of postsecondary credential. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

**TABLE C-16 | SUPPORT FOR LOCAL POLICY PROPOSALS, OVERALL AND AMONG PHILADELPHIA RESPONDENTS WHO ASPIRE TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE (FIGURE 14)**

| "The City of Philadelphia should..."                           | Unweighted |    | Weighted |    |
|--|------------|----|----------|----|
|  | N          | %  | N        | %  |
| <b>...help college students connect to SNAP."</b>              |            |    |          |    |
| Overall  | 780        | 89 | 781      | 89 |
| Among Philadelphia respondents who aspire to enroll in college | 52         | 87 | 90       | 98 |
| <b>...create an emergency aid fund."</b>                       |            |    |          |    |
| Overall  | 680        | 78 | 698      | 80 |
| Among Philadelphia respondents who aspire to enroll in college | 52         | 87 | 90       | 98 |

Source | College Experiences and Aspirations in Philadelphia Survey

Notes | The survey presented statements about local policy proposals on a five-point scale: "strongly disagree," "disagree," "neither agree nor disagree," "agree," and "strongly agree." This figure shows the percentage of respondents who selected "agree" or "strongly agree." Results for "Philadelphia Respondents Who Aspire to Enroll in College" are among respondents who 1) have either attended college without completing a degree or certificate, or never attended college and 2) aspire to complete some form of postsecondary credential. See Appendix B for information about weighting.

## Appendix D. Survey Questions For Data Used In Report

1. Which most accurately applies to you as of today:
  - a. I never attended college.
  - b. I am currently attending college.
  - c. I attended some college, but left and did not complete a degree or certificate.
  - d. I graduated from college with a certificate.
  - e. I graduated from college with an Associate's degree.
  - f. I graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree.
  - g. I graduated from college with at least one advanced degree (for example, a Masters, PhD, JD, or MD)
2. Do you currently have debt related to attending college (for example federal, state, institutional or private loans)?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
3. *[If selected "a" for question 2]* How much student debt do you currently owe:
  - a. Between \$1-\$10,000
  - b. Between \$10,001-\$20,000
  - c. Between \$20,001-\$30,000
  - d. More than \$30,000
4. Which of the following statements most closely reflect your current feeling about your education:
  - a. I am satisfied with my current level of education.
  - b. I wish to finish my high school degree.
  - c. I wish to finish my post-secondary certificate or associate's degree.
  - d. I wish to finish my bachelor's degree.
  - e. I wish to pursue a degree beyond a bachelor's degree.
5. *[If selected "b", "c", "d", or "e" for question 4]* How likely is it that you will obtain the desired level of education that you indicated above in the next five years?
  - a. Very Unlikely
  - b. Unlikely
  - c. Neutral or Undecided
  - d. Likely
  - e. Very Likely
6. *[If selected "b", "c", "d", or "e" for question 4]* Please indicate why you would like to pursue more education. (Check all that apply.)
  - a. To get a job or advance at work
  - b. To make more money
  - c. To learn
  - d. To support and/or inspire people I love
  - e. Other (open ended response allowed)
7. *[If selected "b", "c", "d", or "e" for question 4]* Which of the following do you think are barriers to continuing your education? (Check all that apply.)
  - a. I am concerned about losing my job or experiencing a cut to my work hours.



- b. I wouldn't have enough money to pay tuition.
  - c. I wouldn't have enough money to cover living expenses (food, housing, etc.)
  - d. I wouldn't have access to affordable childcare.
  - e. I have physical or mental health challenges.
  - f. I don't have enough information about how to continue my education.
  - g. I don't have enough encouragement and support from partner, family, or friends.
  - h. I can't find a local educational program that interests me.
  - i. Other (open ended response allowed)
8. Have you attended and left a Philadelphia-area college without completing a degree or certificate?
- a. Yes
  - b. No
9. *[If selected "a" for question 8]* How interested are you in being contacted with information on how to return?
- a. Not at all interested
  - b. Not very interested
  - c. Neutral
  - d. Somewhat interested
  - e. Very interested
10. Think about the people you know in Philadelphia who went to college. Please select the option that applies for each of the following statements. *[Question presented as a matrix with the following options: None of them, A few of them, Some of them, Many of them, All of them]*
- a. They are better off for having gone to college.
  - b. They are in financial trouble because of student debt.
  - c. They experienced trouble paying for food or housing because of college costs.
  - d. They shouldn't have gone to college.
  - e. They are living better lives than me because they went to college.
11. To what extent would you recommend to someone you love that they go to college?
- a. Strongly not recommend
  - b. Not recommend
  - c. Neither recommend nor not recommend
  - d. Recommend
  - e. Strongly recommend
12. To what extent do you think the following institutions offer an affordable college education? *[Question presented as a matrix with the following options: Not affordable, Somewhat affordable, Very affordable, I don't know]*
- a. Community College of Philadelphia
  - b. Temple University
  - c. Drexel University
  - d. LaSalle University
  - e. Peirce College
  - f. Chestnut Hill College
  - g. Orleans Technical College

13. To what extent do you feel the following costs are affordable for people attending college in Philadelphia? *[Question presented as a matrix with the following options: Not affordable, Somewhat affordable, Very affordable]*
  - a. Food
  - b. Rent
  - c. SEPTA
  - d. Childcare
14. I would support an increase in taxes (city/state/federal) in order to provide free tuition for all students at Community College of Philadelphia.
  - a. Strongly disagree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neither agree nor disagree
  - d. Agree
  - e. Strongly agree
15. I would support an increase in taxes (city/state/federal) in order to provide free tuition for all students at Temple University.
  - a. Strongly disagree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neither agree nor disagree
  - d. Agree
  - e. Strongly agree
16. The City of Philadelphia should help college students connect to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or “food stamps” program) to help them afford adequate nutritious food while in school.
  - a. Strongly disagree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neither agree nor disagree
  - d. Agree
  - e. Strongly agree
17. The City of Philadelphia should create an emergency aid fund to help students with one-time emergencies like overdue rent or utility payments to avoid eviction.
  - a. Strongly disagree
  - b. Disagree
  - c. Neither agree nor disagree
  - d. Agree
  - e. Strongly agree

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata.html>

<sup>2</sup> ISR used the WgtAdjust procedure of SUDAAN to create weights.

<sup>3</sup> Weighting, specifically the range of the weights used, affects variance estimates. When weights are too large, variance estimates become so large that survey results cannot be interpreted with confidence.