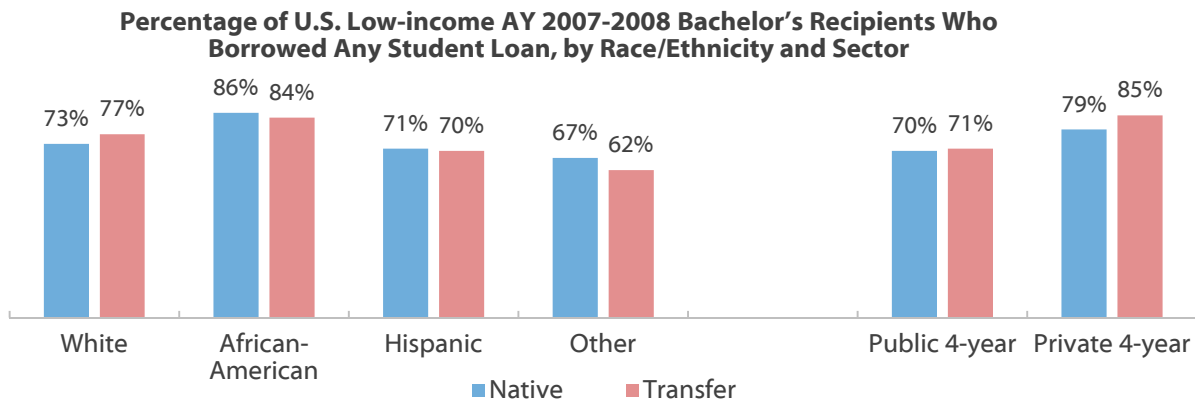
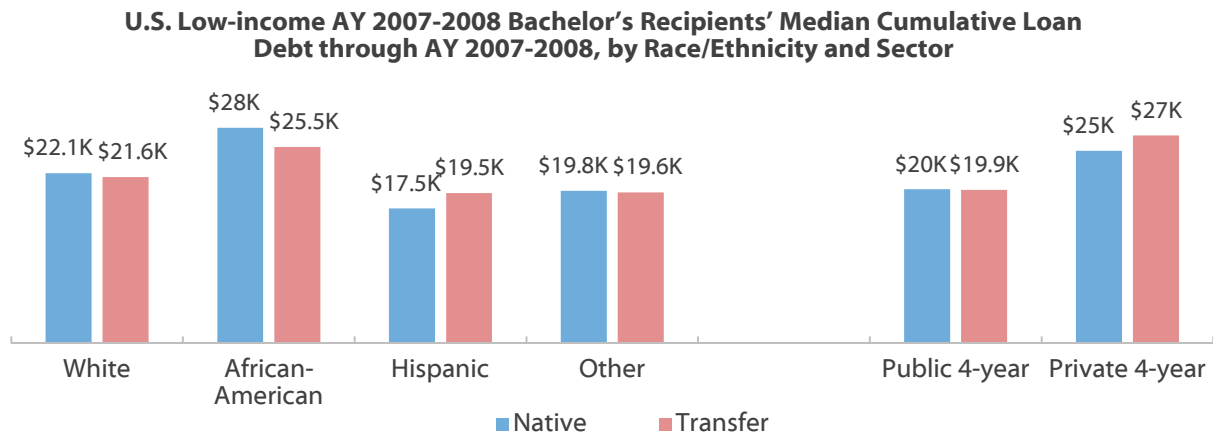


Transfer Students Borrow About as Often and Nearly as Much as Native Students



Low- and middle-income bachelor's degree recipients borrowed about the same student loan amounts regardless of whether they started at a two-year college or a four-year university. Most transfer students were not able to avoid borrowing by starting at a community college and generally borrowed more than "native" students during their final years of college. Transfer students also tended to receive less grant and institutional aid than native students, especially at four-year private universities, which likely increased their need to borrow at their four-year institutions.

Many factors contribute to higher borrowing among transfer students. Transfer students tend to receive less grant aid, but they also tend to enroll at schools that provide less grant aid to all students, to have lower incomes and lower SAT scores, and to take significantly longer to finish their degrees. Prospective transfer students face many challenges. According to a 2009 study by the National Center for Education Statistics, only about one third of community college students who intend to transfer to a university actually end up doing so within three years, and several studies have reported better academic outcomes for students of four-year universities versus community colleges. High school students should consider these trends as well as their individual goals and circumstances in making their postsecondary enrollment decisions.

Sources: Percent Who Transfer: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, On Track to Complete? A Taxonomy of Beginning Community College Students and their Outcomes 3 Years after Enrolling: 2003-04 through 2006, July 2009 (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009152.pdf>); All Else: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study 2009 (<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/b&b/>).

