

The role of higher education in an equitable recovery

Findings from a survey of 10th - 12th grade parents in Massachusetts

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This project was sponsored by the Barr Foundation, the Boston Foundation and the Smith Family Foundation

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Survey Background

- Results based on a statewide survey of 1,502 parents of school-age children in Massachusetts, including oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian parents.
- Parents of 10th-12th graders were asked additional questions about their child's potential college plans (n=367).
- Conducted June 4 - 19, 2020 via live telephone and online interviewing.
- Data was weighted to represent each race / ethnic group as well as the general population on age, gender, race, and education.
- Sponsored by the Barr Foundation, The Boston Foundation, and The Smith Family Foundation.

Key findings

- Most parents say their child's college plans have not changed, but 17% say they have changed, and 24% say their child is likely to delay entrance into college.
- Groups of parents with less connection to their schools during remote learning are more likely to say college plans have changed and that their child is more likely to delay entrance.
- Technology and language barriers have been significant for K-12 students, and are related to changing college plans.
- In terms of concerns, health and safety now rival affordability in parents' minds.

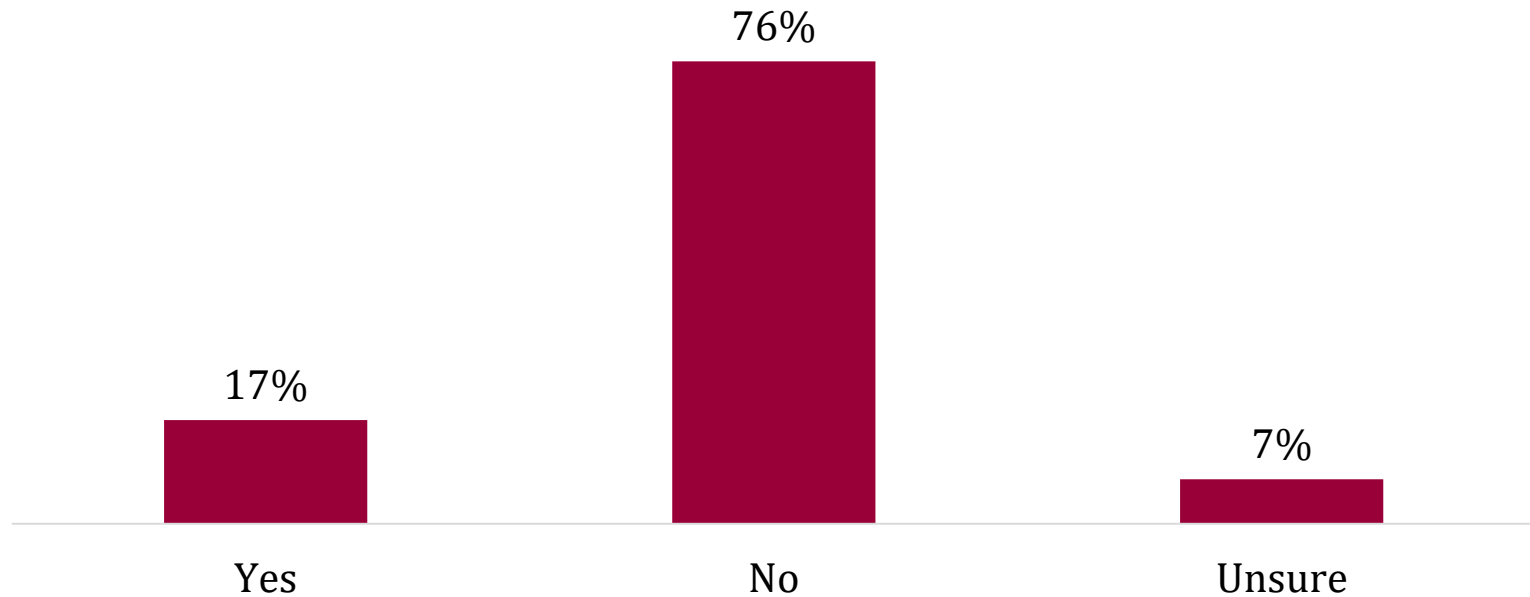
Overall college plans holding steady

- No major drop in intention to attend college in the near future as of now (could change).
 - In all, 72% of parents of 10-12 graders say their child is “very likely” to attend college in the next few years
 - This roughly equals the 72.4% DESE reports for college attendance in the most recent data on Mass. students
- But in terms of this upcoming school year, many say their child may change their plans.

Coronavirus changes college plans for some

- As of the end of the 2019-20 school year, 17% of grade 10-12 parents said college plans had changed.

Most parents say child's college plans unchanged, but notable minority is disrupted
% of 10th -12th grade parents who say their child's college plans have/have not changed due to coronavirus

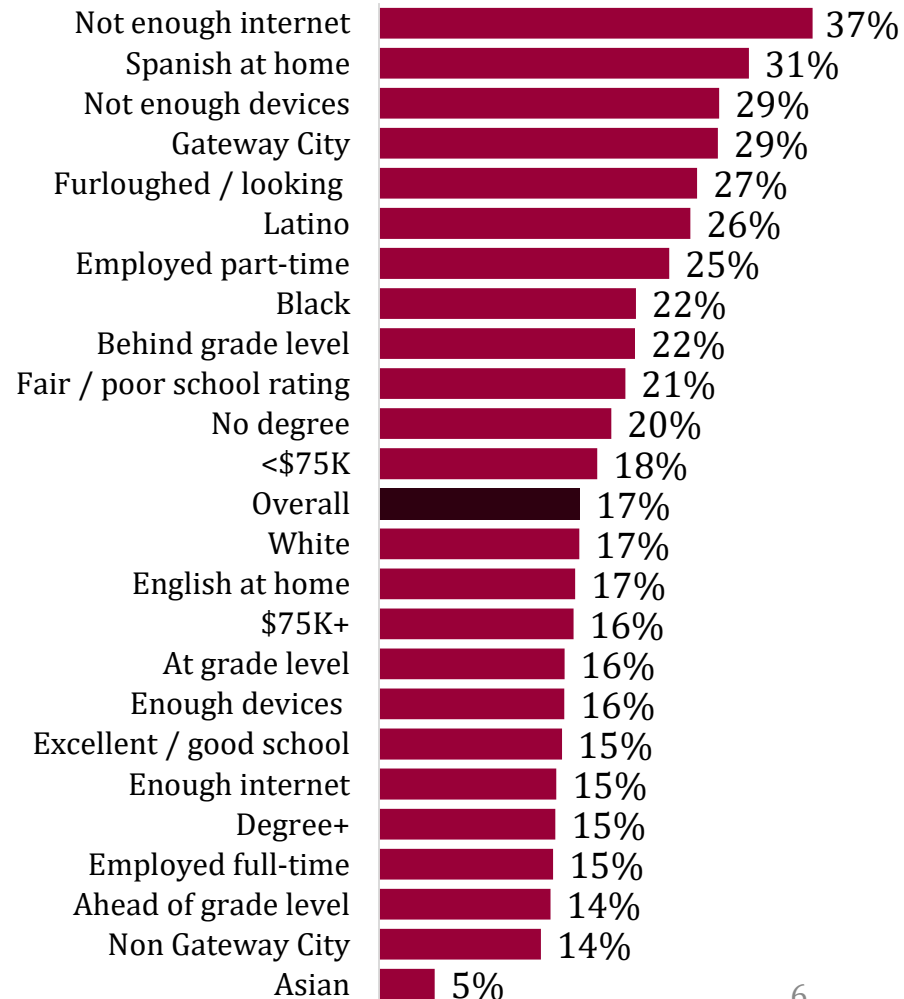


Who has changed college plans?

- Changes to college plans reveal inequitable impacts of the remote learning period.
- Technology, economic, and language issues played a major role in upending college plans.
- These same issues were closely related to overall non-connection rates with school activities during the remote learning period.

Language, technology, race are factors in changing college plans

% of 10th -12th grade parents in each group who say college plans have changed



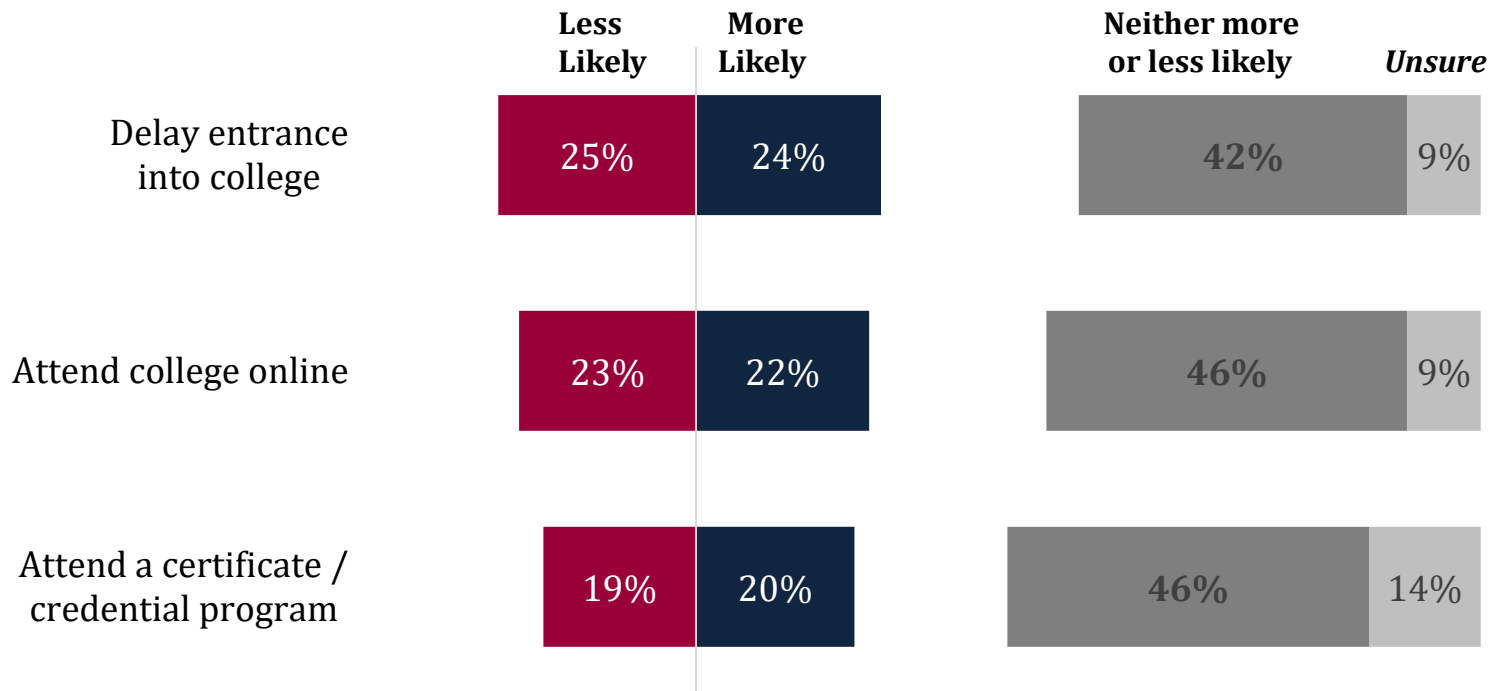
Q: Have the impacts of the coronavirus crisis changed your child's plans as far as attending college is concerned?

Many now more likely to delay

- About one-in-four parents say their students are more likely to delay entrance into college. Others may move online.

About one-in-four parents say their child is more likely to attend college online

% of 10th -12th grade parents who say their children are more/less likely to do each



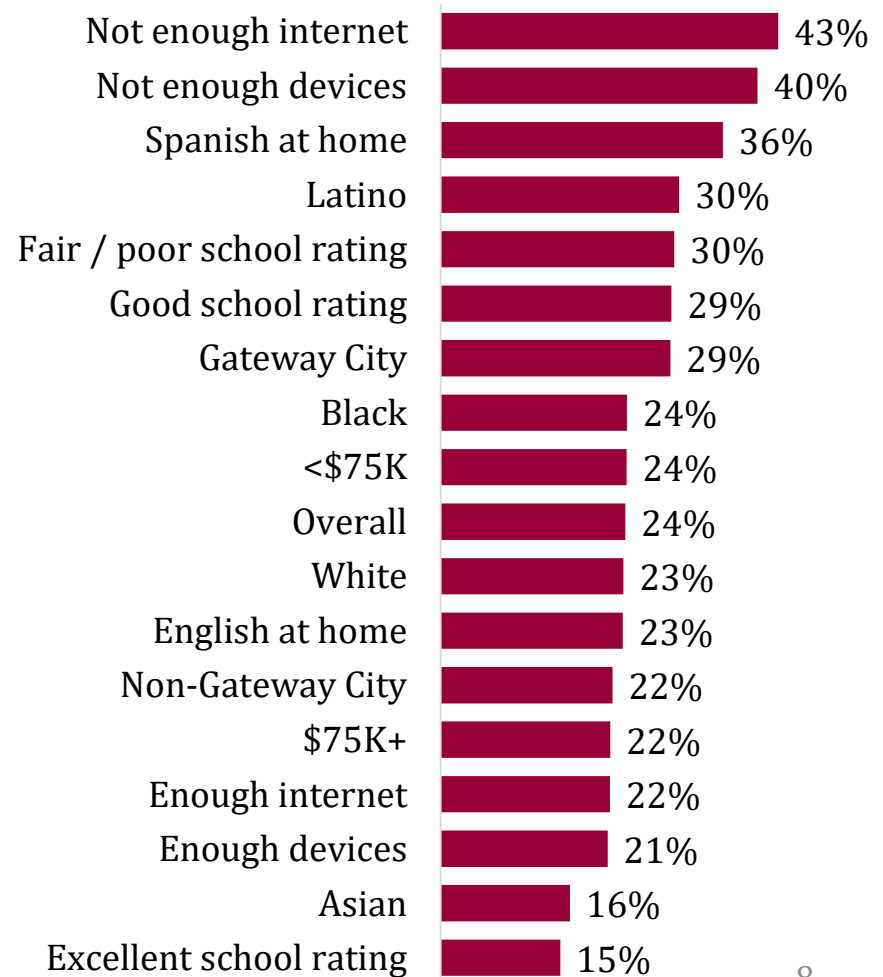
Who is planning to delay college?

- Looking specifically at who is now more likely to delay entrance further highlights the specific inequities of the remote learning experience in Massachusetts.
- Technology and language issues again play a major role.

Q: Has the coronavirus crisis made each of the following more likely, less likely, or neither when it comes to your child's future plans?

Technology, language are factors in delaying college entrance

% of 10th -12th grade parents in each group who say their child is more likely to delay college entrance



Who lacks needed technology

- Access to email, devices, and adequate internet affects more parents in lower income households. (from full K-12 sample)

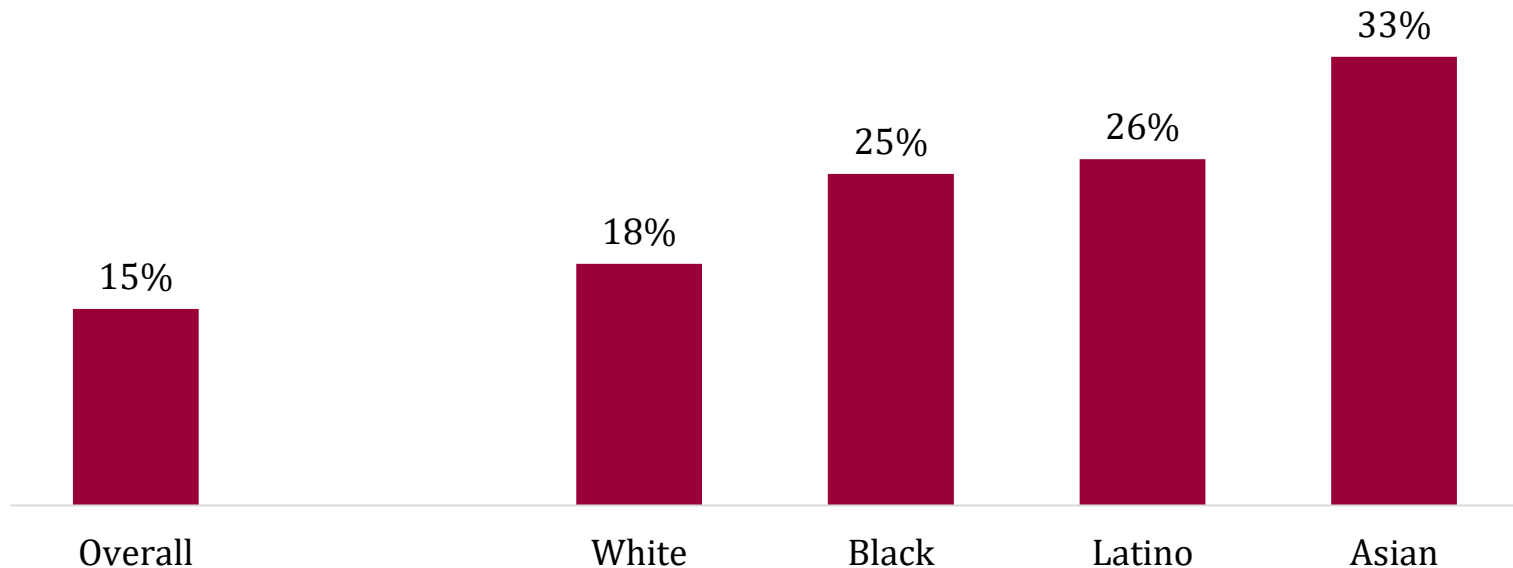
Many parents with lower incomes do not have devices, internet access they need
% of K-12 parents who say they _____

	Overall	< \$50K	\$50-75K	\$75- 100K	\$100K+
Do not have enough devices	11%	24%	15%	9%	7%
Do not have good enough internet	10%	17%	13%	12%	5%
Do not regularly use email	9%	18%	10%	10%	3%

Tech burdens are not equally shared

- Looking at email, devices, and internet, many lower-income families were missing 2 or all 3 (tech burdened) even by the end of the school year, adding a major challenge to their distance learning. (from full K-12 sample)

Access to email, internet, devices among parents with household income <\$75k
% of those with an annual income <\$75K who are tech burdened (missing 2 or 3 of email, internet, devices)

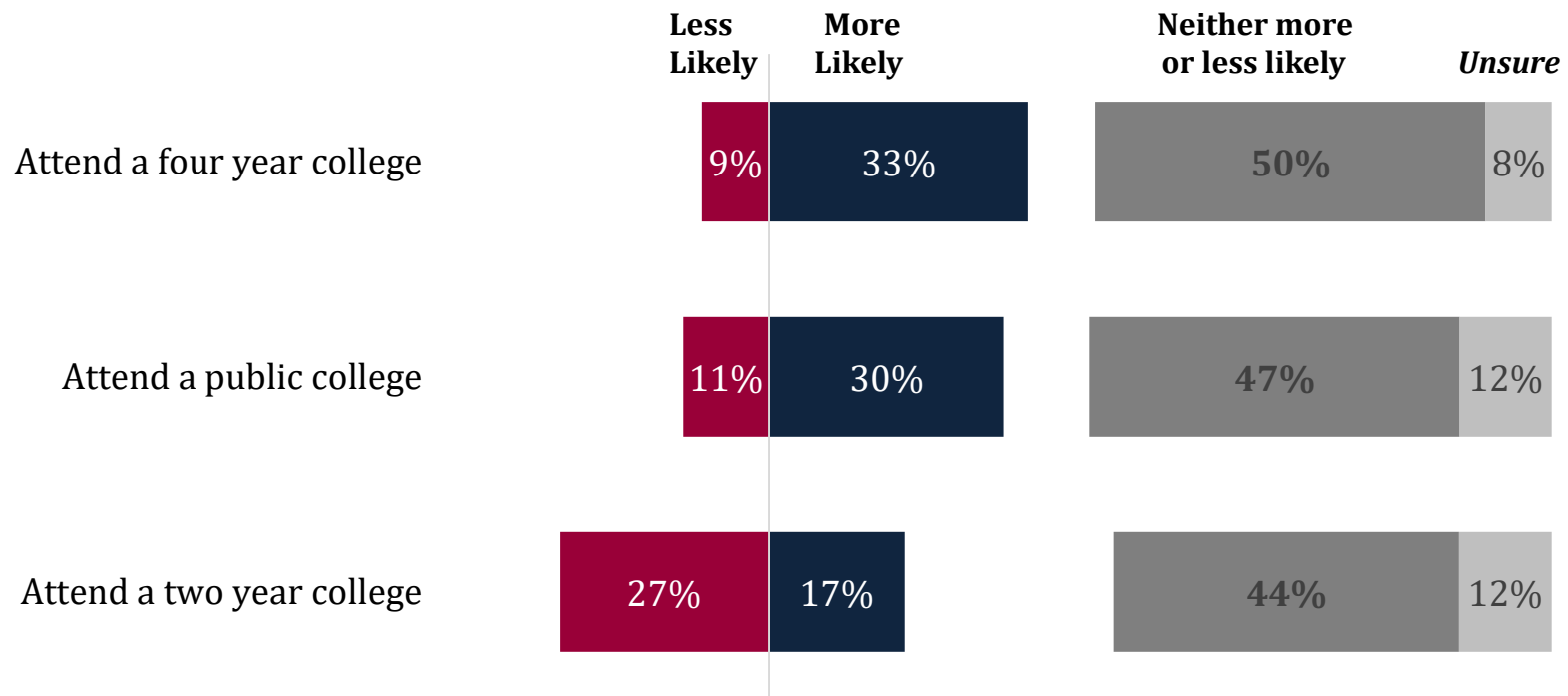


Four-year / public colleges see boosts

- On balance, more parents now say their children are more likely to attend four-year colleges and public colleges.

More parents now say their child plans to attend four-year and public colleges

% of 10th -12th grade parents who say their child is more/less likely to do each



Who is least affected - demographics

- Those who say the likelihood of their child attending college has not changed underscores the disparate economic impacts of coronavirus.

Stability in planning reveals different economic impacts of coronavirus

% of parents in each group who say each plan is "neither more or less likely"

	Overall	White	Non-white	No degree	Degree+	<\$75K	\$75K+	Gateway City	Else where
Four-year college	50%	56%	33%	40%	59%	38%	61%	43%	52%
Public college	47%	52%	33%	39%	55%	40%	55%	39%	50%
Certificates or credentials	46%	49%	36%	42%	50%	44%	52%	40%	48%
College online	46%	47%	44%	43%	49%	45%	49%	41%	48%
Two-year college	44%	48%	31%	36%	52%	35%	52%	32%	48%
Delay entrance into college	42%	46%	28%	35%	48%	32%	49%	34%	44%

Who is least affected - connections

- Language and technology access played a major role in how the remote learning experience went, and also affect likelihood of keeping plans unchanged.

Technology and language access showcase disparity in college planning

% in each group who say each plan is "neither more or less likely"

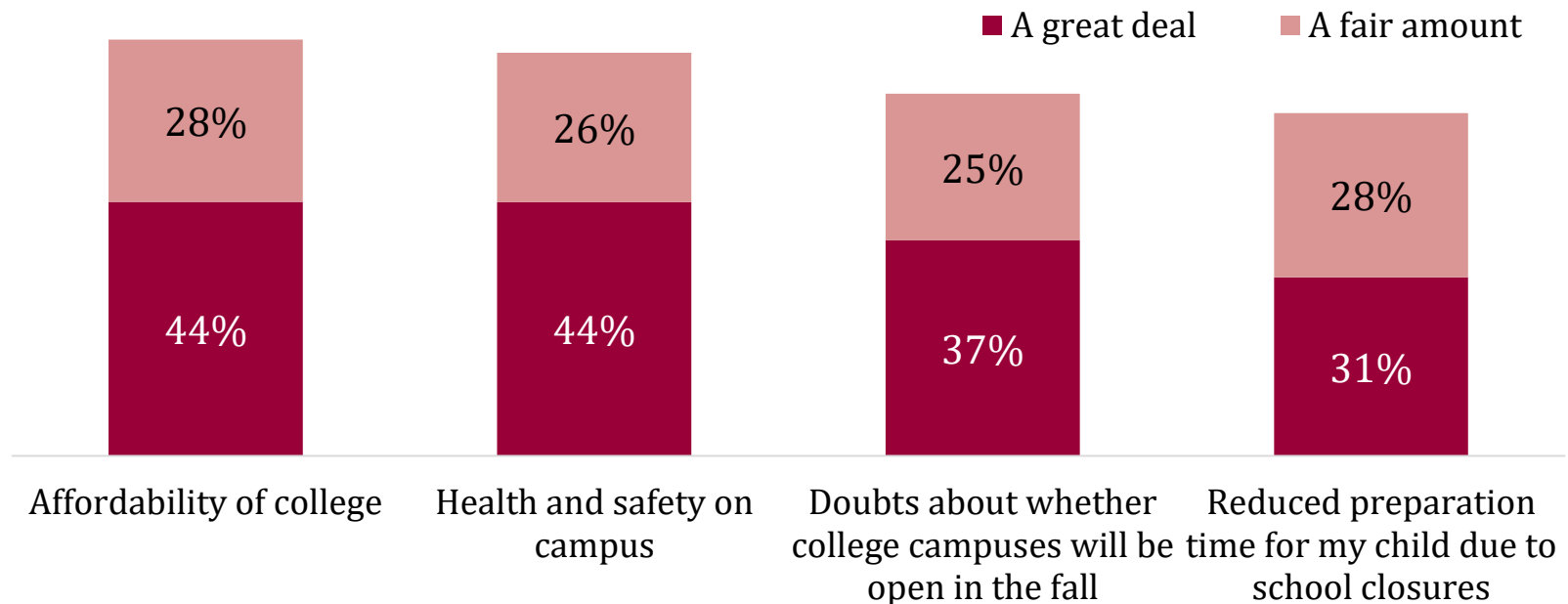
	Overall	Enough devices	Not enough devices	English at home	Spanish at home
Four-year college	50%	52%	40%	51%	26%
Public college	47%	49%	41%	48%	30%
Certificates or credentials	46%	47%	40%	47%	34%
College online	46%	46%	45%	46%	46%
Two-year college	44%	45%	38%	45%	34%
Delay entrance into college	42%	44%	28%	42%	24%

Concerns about college attendance

- Health concerns join the perennial affordability issue in top concerns for parents about college.

Parents express specific concerns about attending college in the fall

% of 10th -12th grade parents who say they feel _____ of concern about each

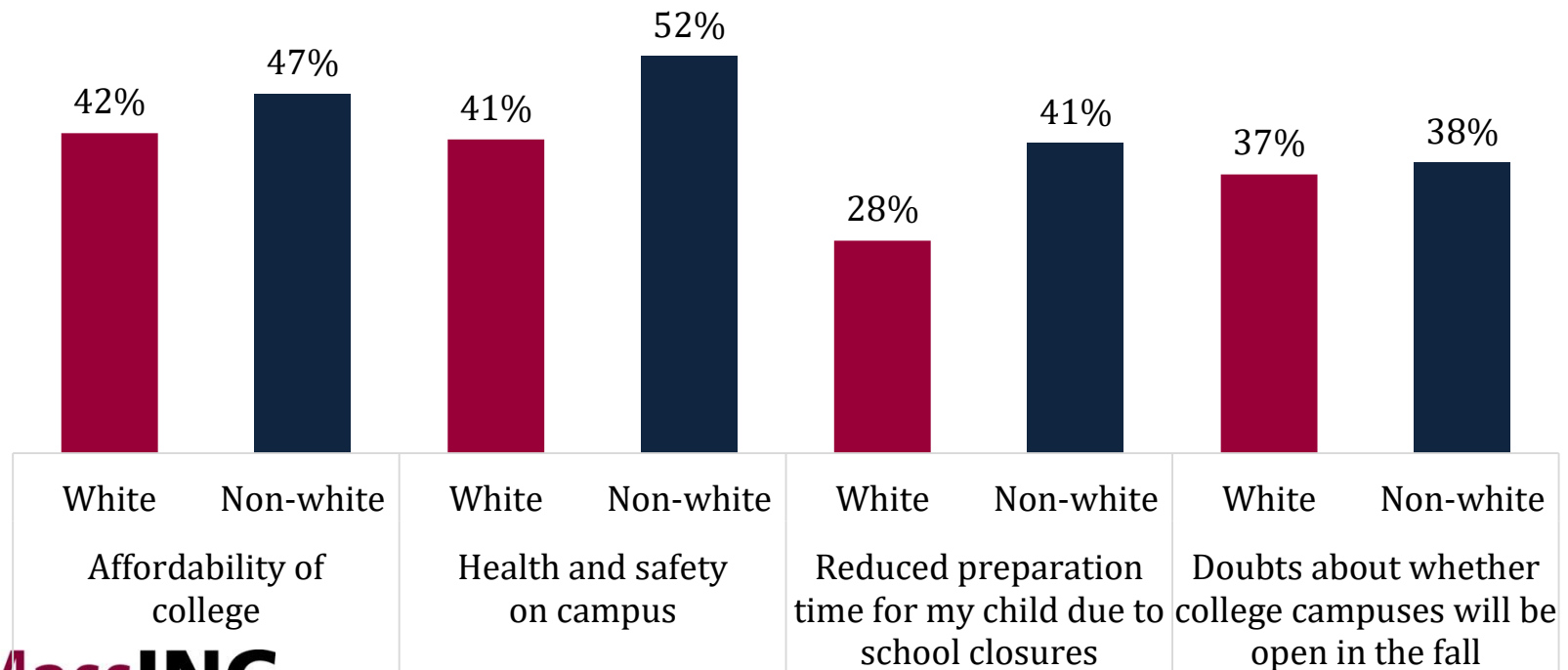


Concerns about college attendance

- Health and safety, affordability are two biggest concerns overall.
- White parents express relatively less concern about time to prepare for college due to closures.

Parents of color express concern about college attendance

% of 10th -12th grade parents who say each of the following concern them “a great deal”





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