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THE RE-ENROLLMENT TENDENCIES OF “SOME COLLEGE, NO DEGREE” STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

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PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet highlights information from a National Student Clearinghouse Research Center report titled, “Some College, No Degree: A 2019 Snapshot for the Nation and 50 States.”¹ The data on re-enrolled college students in Mountain West states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah) show the percentage of individuals who re-enrolled at an academic institution other than their initial college or university.

ABOUT THE DATA:

In 2019, the National Student Research Center reported that nearly 36 million people in the United States who previously enrolled in higher education institutions withdrew from college without completing any undergraduate credentials. These individuals are categorized as “Some College, No Degree” students (SCND).² The data in the original report categorize the types of institutions where students re-enrolled in order to complete their credentials, and highlight the number of students that remained in-state versus the number that opted for out-of-state institutions. While there is variance in the reasons American college students cite when they decide to stop pursuing a credential—many never return to complete—approximately 3.8 million students re-enrolled at a post-secondary institution between 2013 and 2018. Of those 3.8 million students, many are either still enrolled, some have stopped-out once again without credentials, and some have completed college after re-enrollment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS NATIONWIDE:

At the state-level, the number re-enrolled students at in-state versus out-of-state colleges and universities varies. States with more than 70 percent *in-state re-enrollment* and completion include Utah (70%), Minnesota (77%), Arkansas (73%), Michigan (72%), Wisconsin (72%), and New York (71%). On the opposite end, states with more than 50% of their re-enrollers opting for *out-of-state or primarily online* institutions include Alaska (60%), Maryland (59%), Nevada (56%), and Vermont (51%).

KEY TAKEAWAYS IN NEVADA:

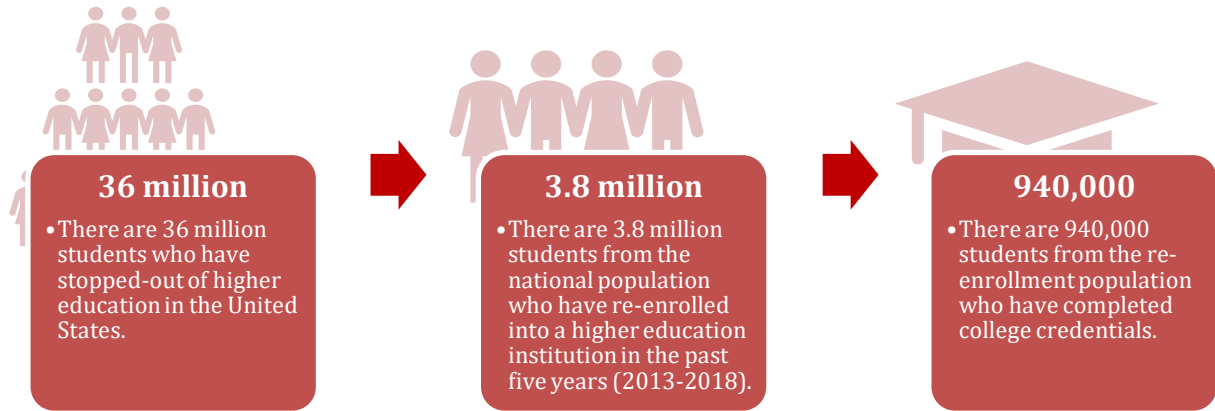
1. 56% of Nevada’s re-enrolled college student population opted to complete their credentials at an out-of-state institution.
2. Nevada’s out-of-state re-enrollment trends are similar to Vermont, Maryland, and Alaska.
3. 6% of students who re-enrolled in a Nevada institution attended a Nevada public 2-year college; the national average of in-state public 2-year college re-enrollers is 30%.
4. Among students who re-enrolled at a Nevada college or university, 37% chose to attend a Nevada public 4-year institution; the national average of in-state public 4-year college re-enrollers is 22%.

¹ Shapiro, D. and others, *Some College, No Degree, A 2019 Snapshot for the Nation and 50 States, Signature Report No. 17* (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2019).

² Ibid.

Figure 1 presents the population breakdown of the 940,000 students in the United States who re-enrolled and completed either a certificate, an associate degree, or bachelor’s degree. Among students who completed their credentials, only 38 percent attended the same institution they attended previously before stopping-out.

FIGURE 1: “SOME COLLEGE, NO DEGREE” POPULATION BREAKDOWN



Source: Author’s analysis of data provided in “Some College, No Degree: A 2019 Snapshot for the Nation and 50 States” by National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

Table 1 shows data for states where more than 50% of re-enrollers completed credentials out-of-state. The additional data provided is for states where in-state re-enrollers completed their credentials, by institution type. This data is sorted lowest to highest for each state’s out-of-state re-enrollment rate.

TABLE 1: U.S. STATES WHERE MORE THAN 50% OF RE-ENROLLED STUDENTS COMPLETE CREDENTIALS OUT-OF-STATE, BY INSTITUTION TYPE

State	Out-of-State	In-State				
		Public 2-Year	Public 4-Year	Private Nonprofit 4-Year	Private For-profit 4-Year	Other
Vermont	51%	14%	21%	14%	N/A	N/A
Nevada	56%	6%	37%	1%	N/A	N/A
Maryland	59%	23%	15%	3%	N/A	N/A
Alaska	60%	1%	38%	1%	N/A	N/A

Source: “Some College, No Degree: A 2019 Snapshot for the Nation and 50 States” by National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

States with the lowest re-enrollment rates include Alaska (1%), Florida (5%), Nevada (6%), and North Dakota (8%). Among students who re-enrolled at a Nevada post-secondary institution, only 6% attended a Nevada public 2-year college,³ while 37% attended a Nevada public 4-year institution.⁴ States with the highest re-enrollment rates include Florida (54%), Montana (44%), North Dakota (43%), Utah (40%), Alaska (38%), Nevada (37%), and West Virginia (32%).

³ The data used for Nevada is incomplete and only represents three out of the four public 2-year institutions that Nevada has. It is not specified which institutions are being used as a 2-year institution in this data.

⁴ The data used for Nevada is incomplete and only represents two out of the three public 4-year institutions that Nevada has. It is not specified which institutions are being used as a 4-year institution in this data.

Table 2 presents the types of institutions where college students in the Mountain West chose to re-enroll. Nevada is the only state in the Mountain West to have a majority of their SCND population complete their credentials out-of-state. Utah, Montana, Colorado, and Nevada rank above the national average of 22% of students that re-enrolled into in-state public 4-year institutions. Nevada has the lowest percentage of re-enrollers who attended a public 2-year institutions in a Mountain West state.

TABLE 2: WHERE RE-ENROLLED STUDENTS IN THE MOUNTAIN WEST COMPLETE THEIR CREDENTIALS, BY INSTITUTION TYPE

State	Out-of-State	In-State				
		Public 2-Year	Public 4-Year	Private Nonprofit 4-Year	Private For-profit 4-Year	Other ⁵
Utah	23%	18%	40%	17%	N/A	2%
New Mexico	33%	42%	25%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Idaho	36%	16%	20%	28%	N/A	N/A
Colorado	38%	32%	24%	5%	1%	N/A
Montana	41%	13%	44%	2%	N/A	N/A
Arizona	42%	33%	18%	6%	1%	N/A
Wyoming	45%	44%	11%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nevada	56%	6%	37%	1%	N/A	N/A

Source: “Some College, No Degree: A 2019 Snapshot for the Nation and 50 States” by National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

⁵ The category “Other” is defined as any higher education institution that does not identify as a public 2-year, public 4-year, private nonprofit 4-year, or private for-profit 4-year institution.