

Who Holds Student Loan Debt?

Federal student loan debt has become a prominent issue on the campaign trail and in the halls of Congress as policymakers look to provide financial relief to student borrowers. As this conversation continues to gain steam, there are some key facts lawmakers need to know about the student loan portfolio and who currently holds debt.

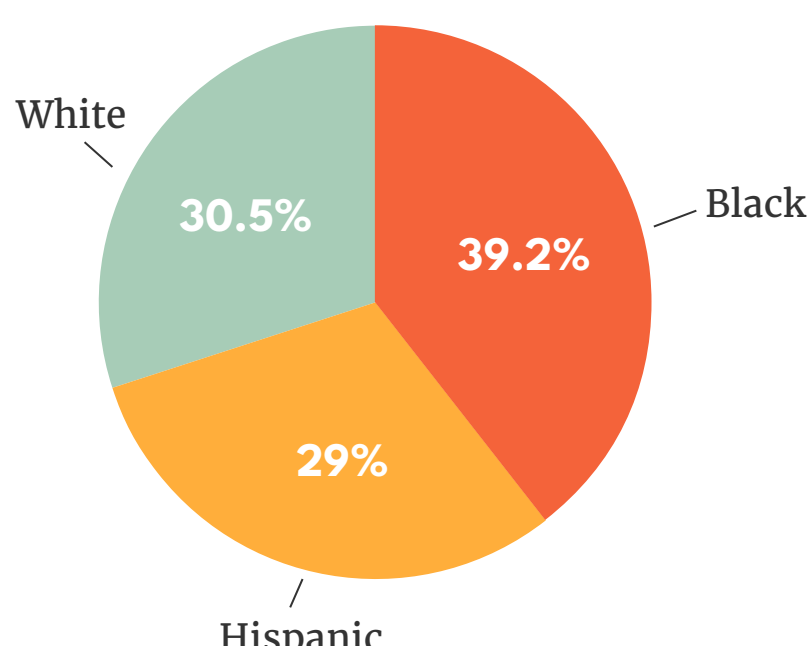
The outstanding federal student loan debt portfolio currently stands at
\$1.56 TRILLION



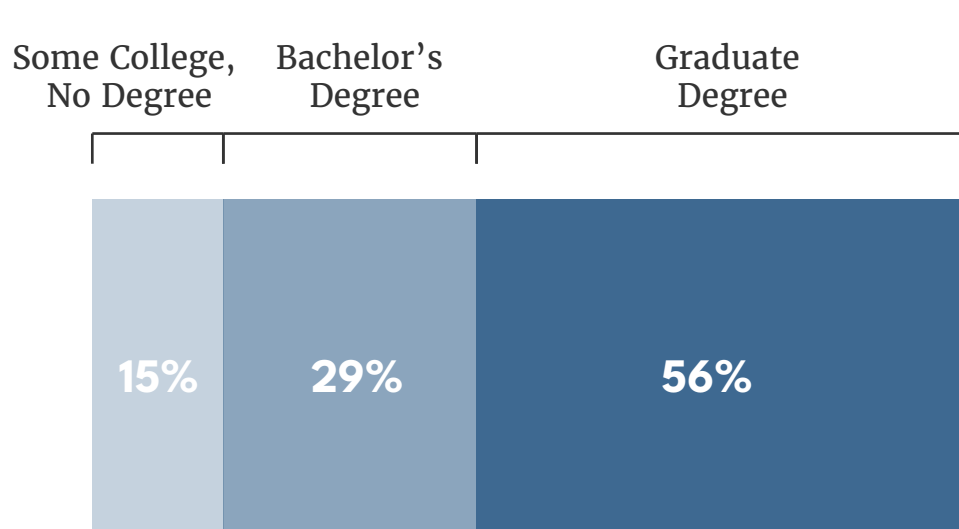
Currently, about 20% of adults in the US have student loan debt.

Demographics: Who Borrows and How Much Do They Owe?

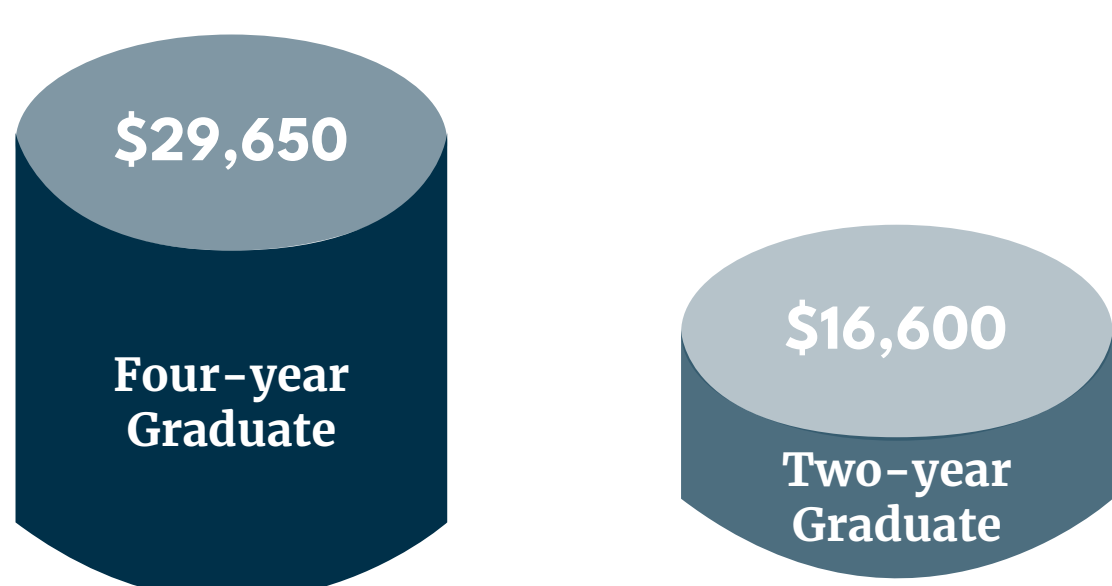
Student Debt Holders Age 25 to 55 by Race



Total Student Loan Debt by Degree Type



Average Amount of Debt Held



Share of Borrowers with Debt Above \$50k

Less than a quarter of borrowers have

\$50,000

or more in debt, and only 6% hold more than

\$100,000

Income Distribution: Who Holds the Most Debt by Income Level?

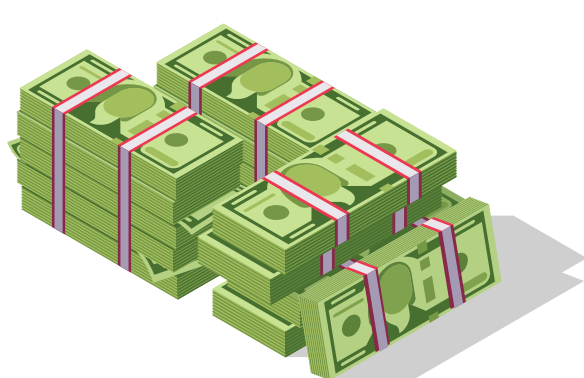
Only **12%** of student loan debt is held by those in the lowest-income quartile (\$27,000 and below).

In contrast, **34%** of student loan debt is held by those in the highest-income quartile (\$97,001 and above).

Average Debt Held by Borrowers by Income Quintile

Lowest-income Quintile

\$26,000



Highest-income Quintile

\$46,700



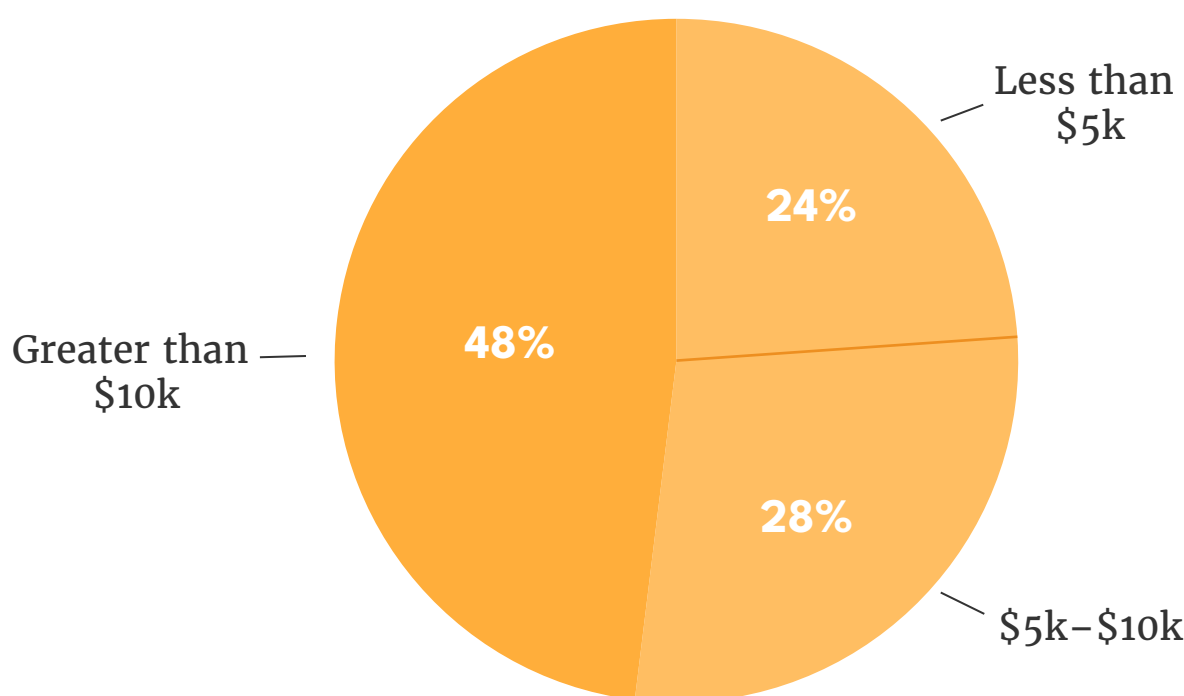
Repayment and Default: Who Repays and Who Defaults on Student Loans?

Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plans

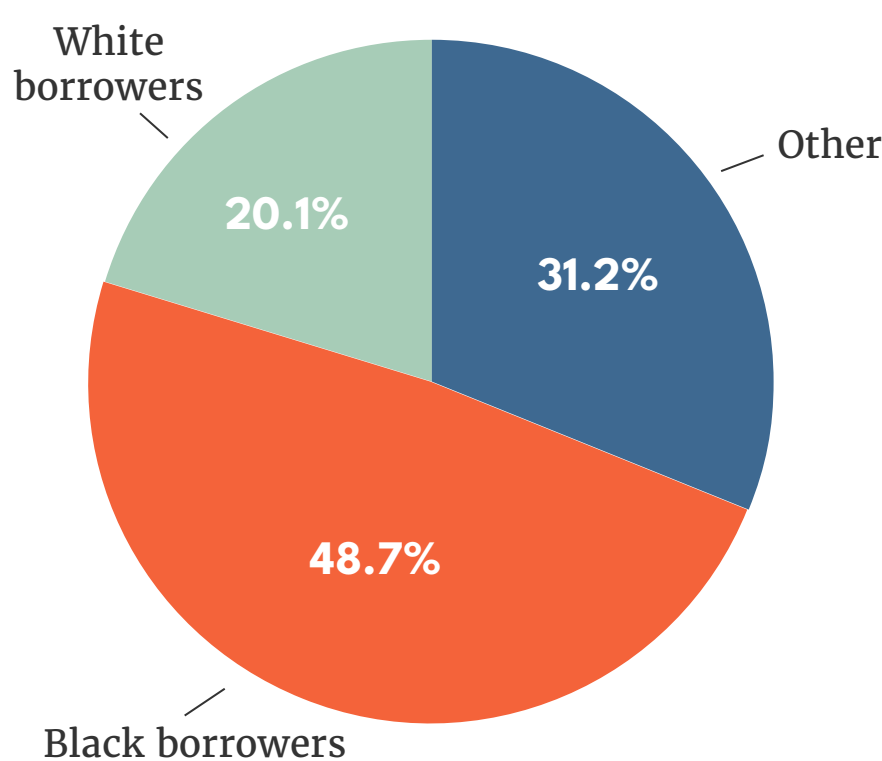
Federal law allows most borrowers to enroll in income-driven repayment (IDR) plans that limit their monthly payments to a certain percentage of their discretionary income.

Only **6%** of IDR participants come from households with wages under \$12,500.

Borrowers with Lower Balances are More Likely to Default



Percentage of Borrowers Who Defaulted on Their Loans Within 6 Years by Race



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