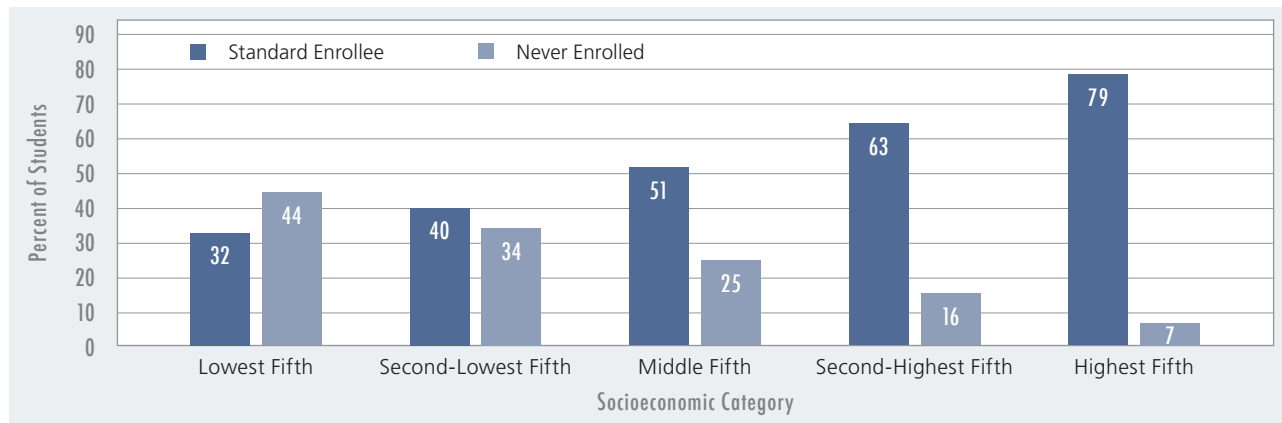


THE IMPACT OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS ON COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

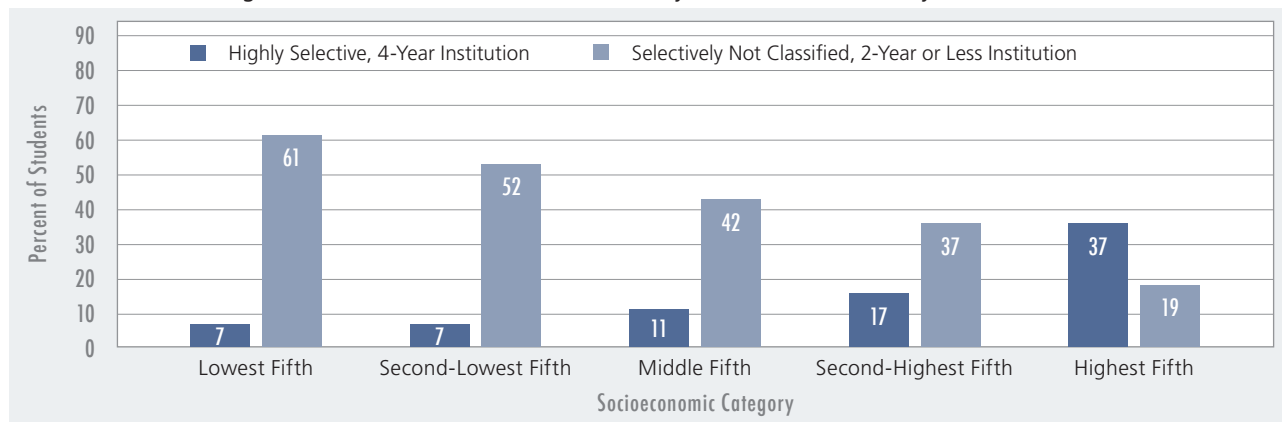
In May 2019, the National Center for Education Statistics released its annual report, *The Condition of Education*. This report features data from the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009, which surveyed students of varying socioeconomic statuses as they progressed through secondary and postsecondary education. Findings indicate that socioeconomic status affects the educational trajectory of young adults. Seventy-nine percent of young adults in the highest tier socioeconomic group were classified as standard enrollees, and only 7 percent never enrolled in postsecondary education. Thirty-two percent of young adults in the lowest tier socioeconomic group were standard enrollees, and 44 percent never enrolled in postsecondary education.

Percentage of Standard Enrollees vs. Never Enrolled in Postsecondary Education, by Socioeconomic Status



The study also revealed that socioeconomic status impacts the type of postsecondary education pursued by young adults. Students grouped in the highest socioeconomic category were 30 percent more likely to enroll in a highly selective four-year institution than their counterparts in the lowest socioeconomic category. Students in the lowest socioeconomic category were 42 percent more likely to enroll in a two-year or less institution than those in the highest socioeconomic category.

Percentage of Four-Year vs. Two-Year Postsecondary Education Enrollees, by Socioeconomic Status



Notes: Socioeconomic status was determined in 2009 by family income and parental education and occupations. Postsecondary outcome data were collected three years after most respondents completed high school, in February of 2016. Standard enrollees were classified as those who enrolled in postsecondary education within one year of high school completion and were still enrolled or had completed a postsecondary credential by February of 2016. Institution selectivity is based on the Carnegie Classification 2010: Undergraduate Profile.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 2019*. The full report can be viewed here: <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/commissioner.asp>.