

May 2024

FAFSA

Straw Poll Results

Prepared by
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acuho-i
Making Campus Home

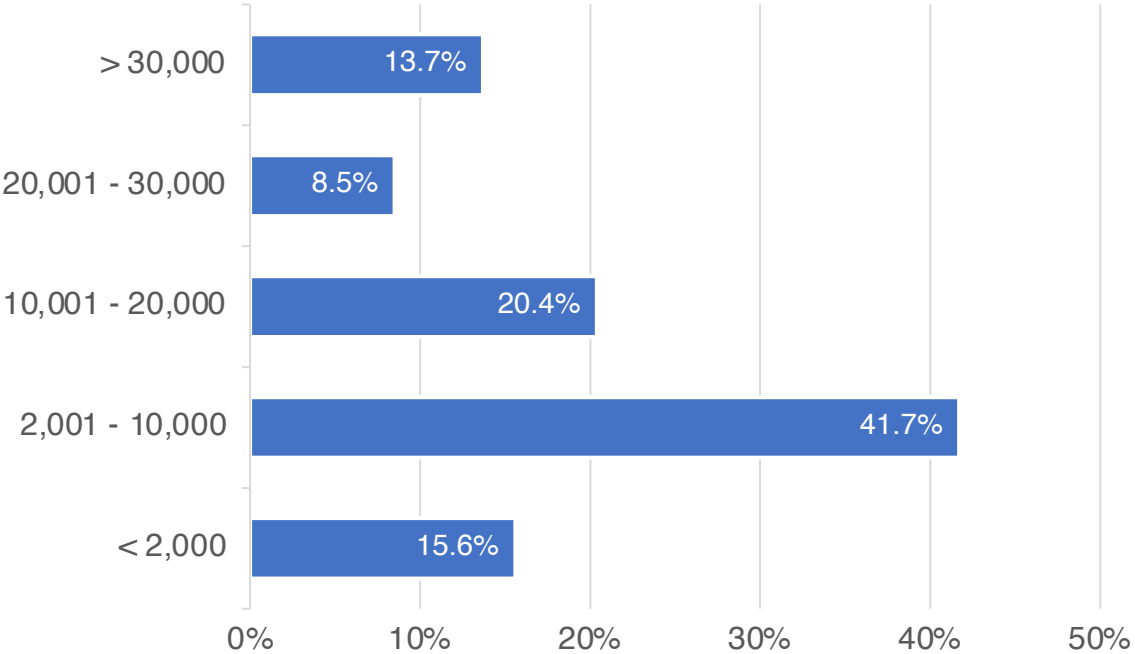
Introduction

The FAFSA straw poll was administered between May 1 -3, 2024. The survey invitation was sent to senior housing officers at U.S. institutions. A total of 211 institutions participated.

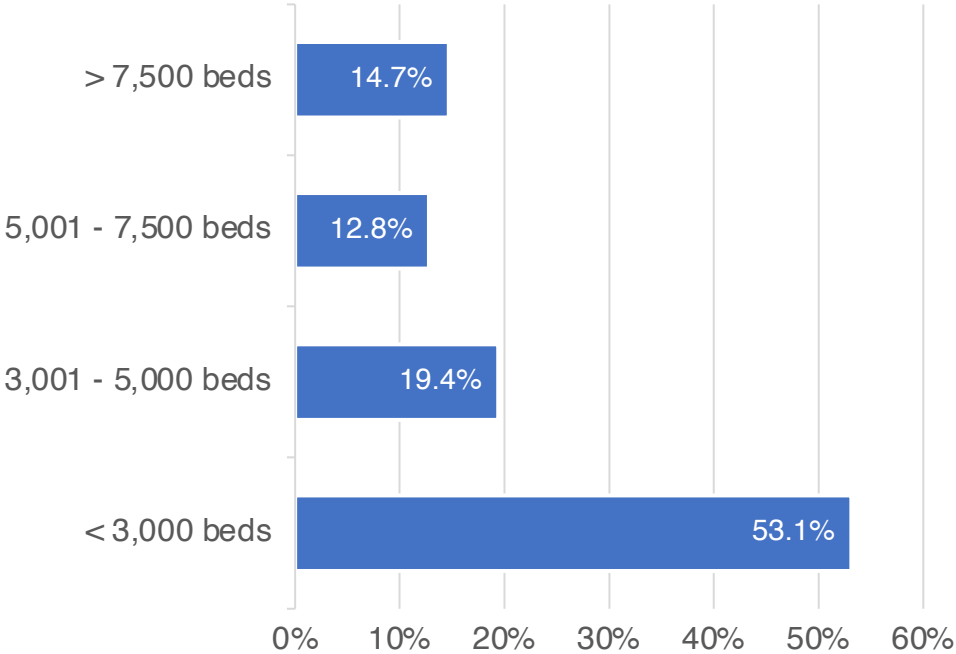
Thank you to members of the ACUHO-I Public Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) for their assistance in developing the questions used for the straw poll.

Institutional Characteristics

Undergraduate Enrollment

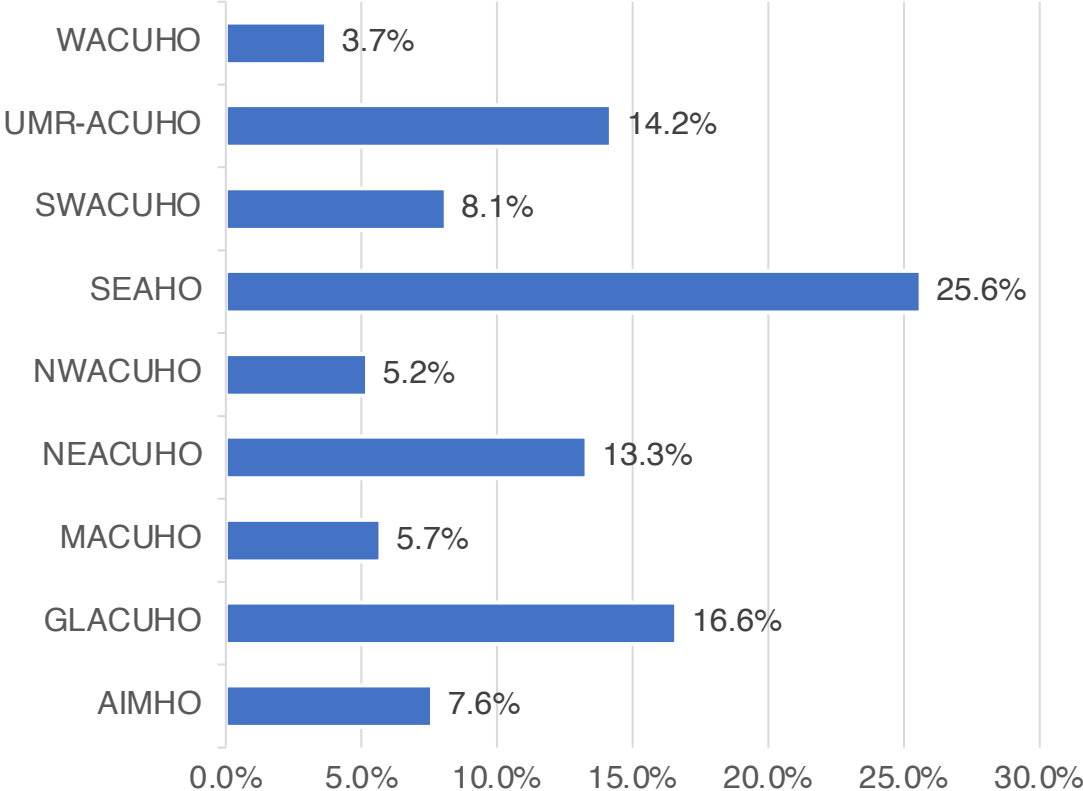


Bed Capacity

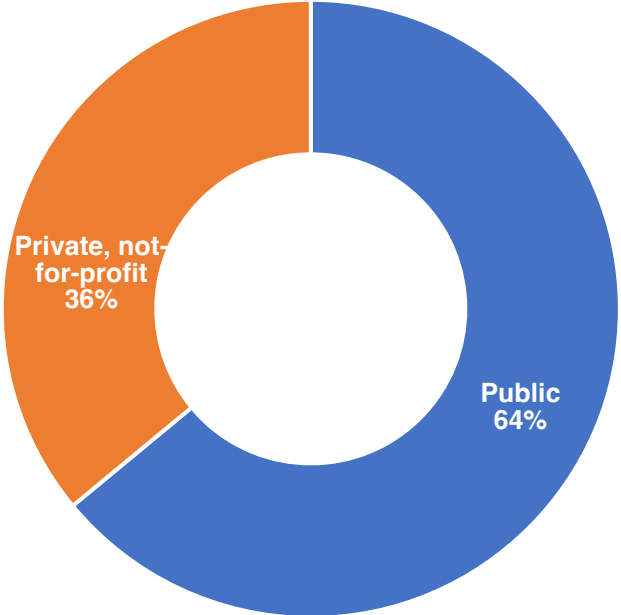


Institutional Characteristics

Region

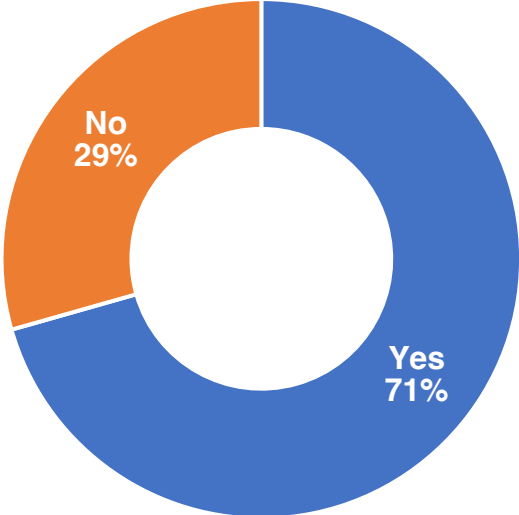


Sector

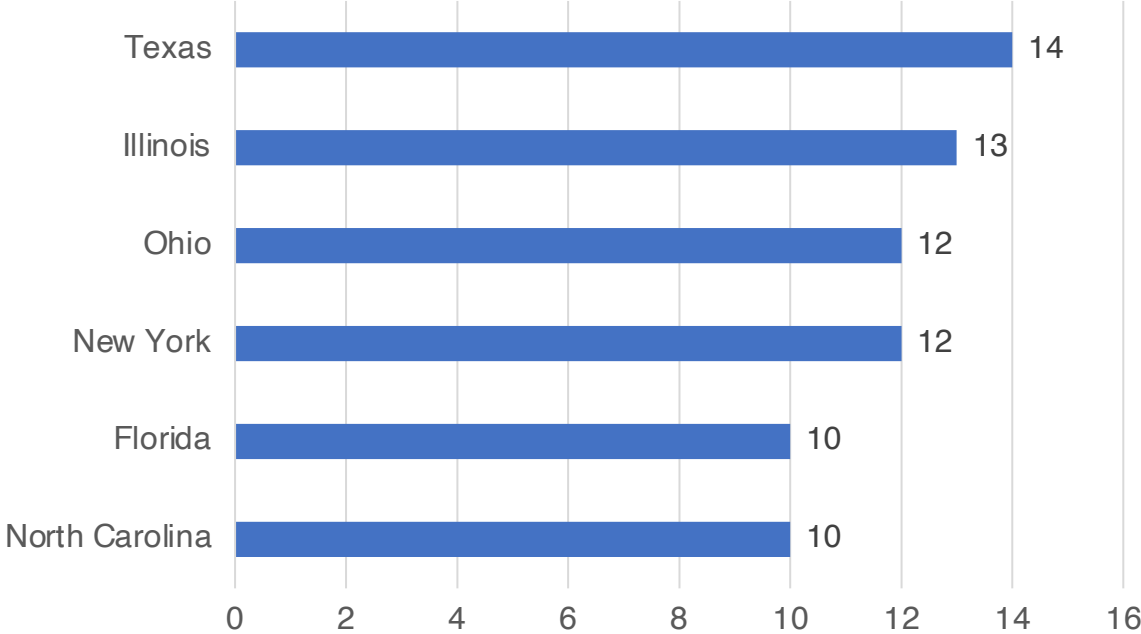


Institutional Characteristics

First-Year Living Requirement



Most Represented States



First-Year Living Requirement - Highlights

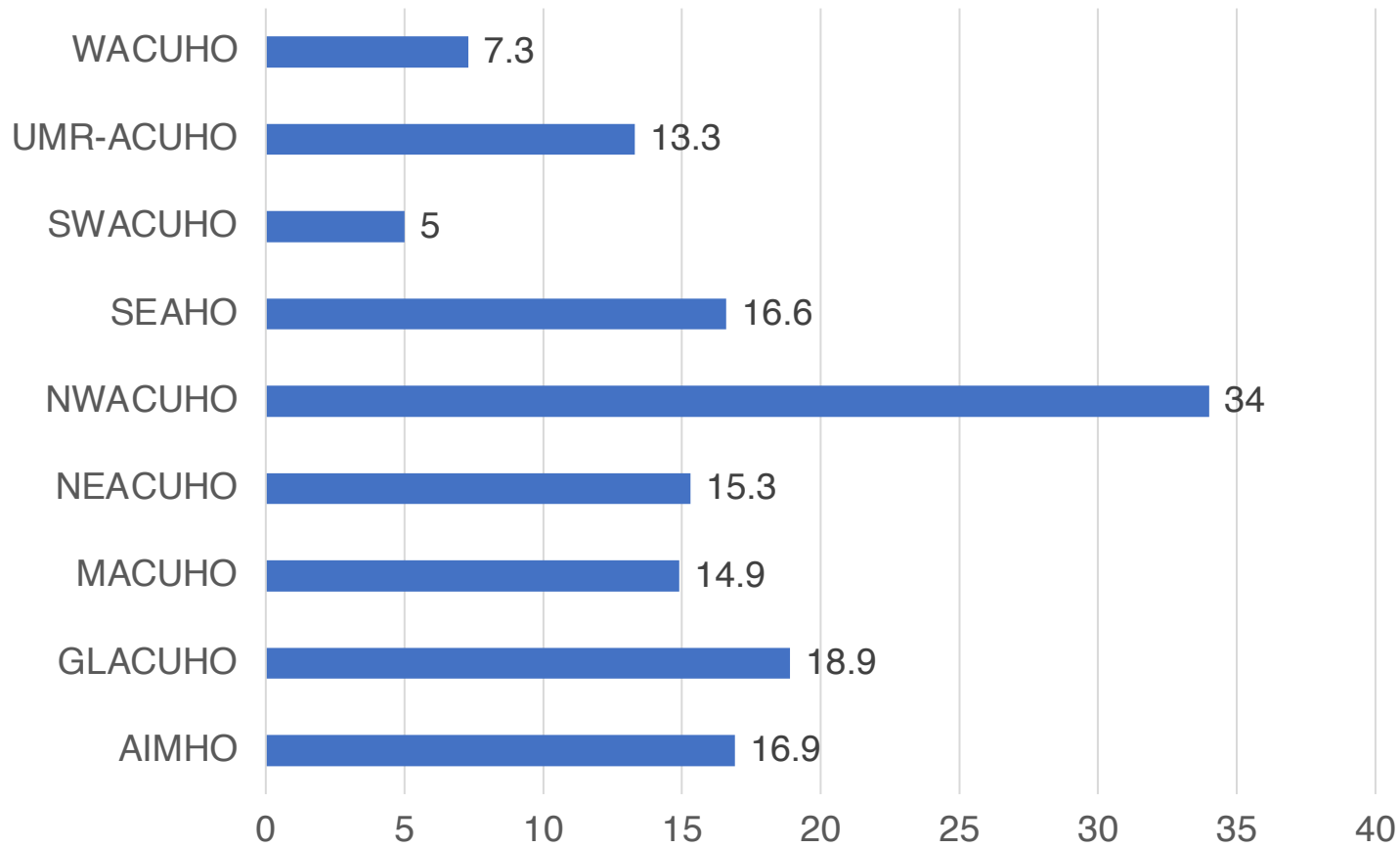
- 63% of public and 84% of private, not-for-profit institutions reported a first-year living requirement
- 91% of NWACUO institutions reported having 1st year living requirement
- Nearly 40% of NEACUHO and WACUHO institutions reported no 1st year living requirement
- >75% of institutions with between 3,001-5,000 and 5,001-7,500 beds reported having a first-year living requirement
- Nearly 80% of institutions with < 2,000 students have a first-year living requirement, compared to 52% of institutions > 30,000 students

Deadlines - Admission

- Admission deadlines ranged from February to August
- Average difference from last year's deadline was 16.1 days
- Difference in deadlines ranged from zero days (no change) to 120 days
- Most common response was 0 days (no change)

Deadlines - Admission

Average Difference in Deadline (Days)

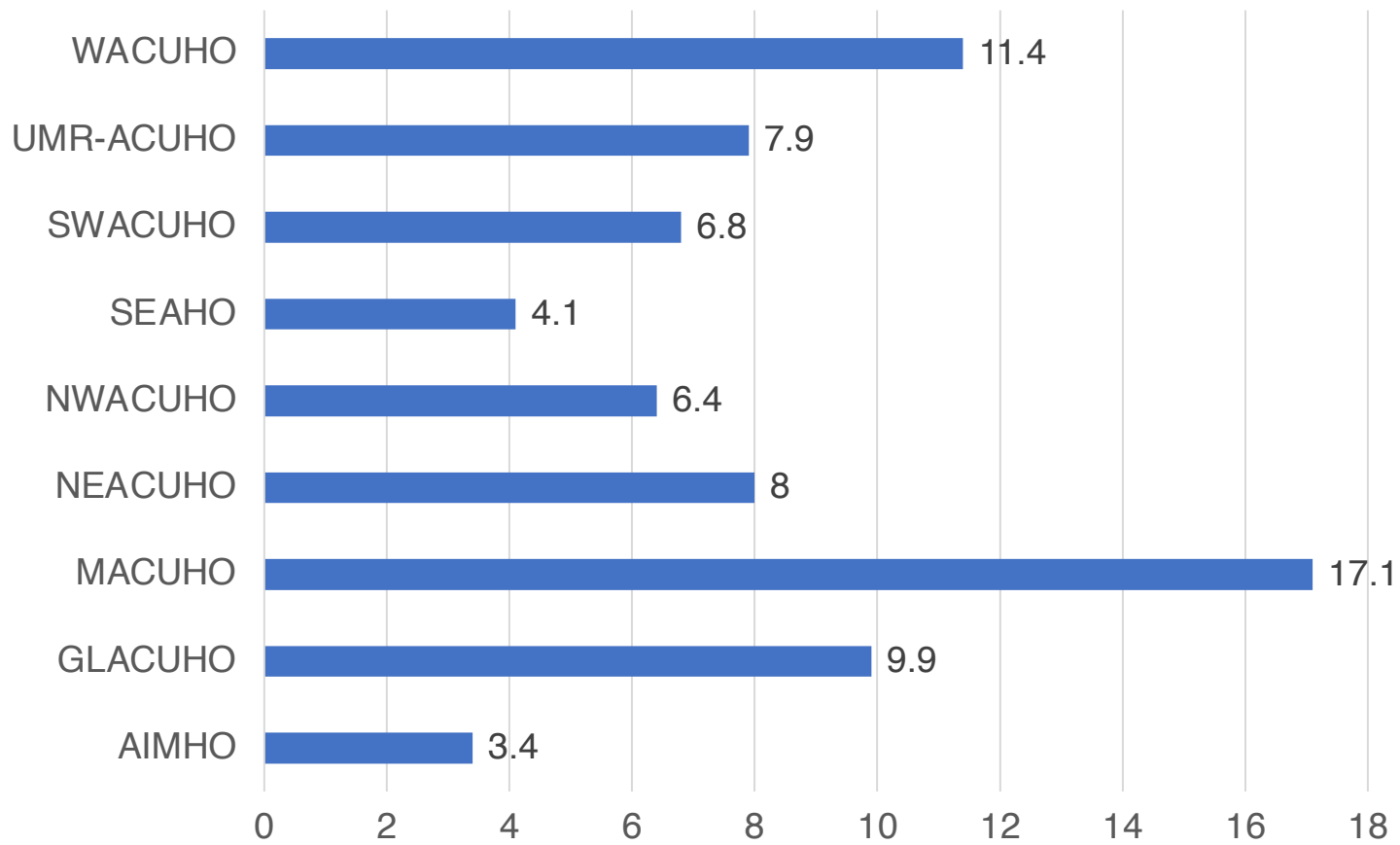


Deadlines - Housing

- Housing deadlines included March, May - September
- Average difference from last year's deadline was 7.5 days
- Difference in deadlines ranged from zero days (no change) to 60 days
- Most common response was 0 days (no change)

Deadlines - Housing

Average Difference in Deadline (Days)

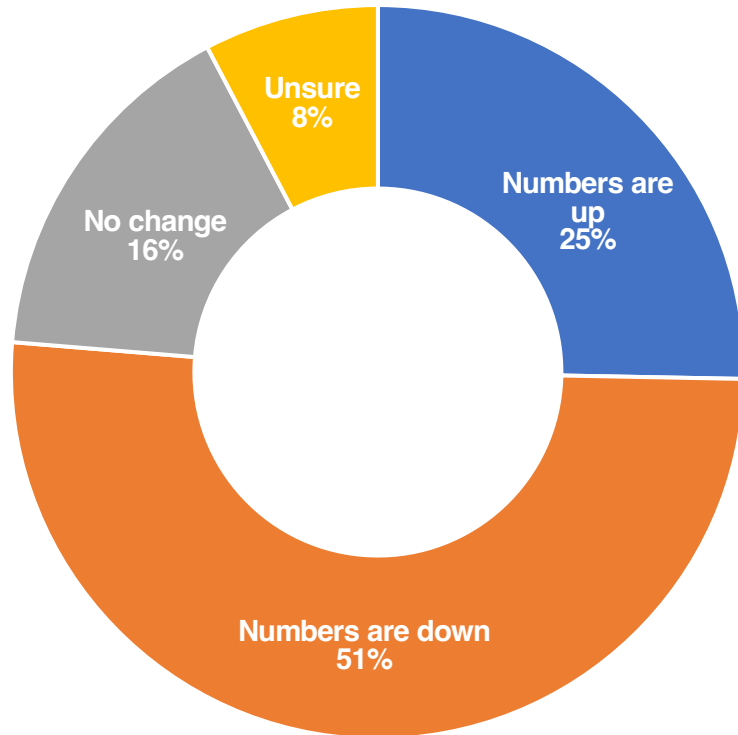


Deadlines - Highlights

- Difference in housing deadline was **greater** than the difference for admission deadline at WACUHO, SWACUHO, and MACUHO institutions
- MACUHO - largest change in housing deadline (17.1 days)
- AIMHO - smallest change in housing deadline (3.4 days)
- NWACUHO – largest change in admission deadline (34 days)
- SWACUHO - smallest change in admission deadline (5 days)

Housing Numbers – How Do Institutions Stack Up

Overall Results



Compared to this time last year:

- More than half of institutions (51%) reported that **numbers are down**
- 1 in 5 institutions reported that their **numbers are up**
- About 1 in 5 institutions reported either **no change** or **uncertainty** about current numbers

Housing Numbers – How Do Institutions Stack Up

Region Highlights

- Most SEAHO (44%) and UMR-ACUHO (33%) institutions reported **numbers are up**, but regions were split across the 4 categories (e.g., up, down, no change, unsure)
- **Numbers are down** at most GLACUHO (77%), MACUHO (73%), NWACUHO (60%), NEACUHO (56%), and AIMHO (47%) institutions
- 1 in 3 SWACUHO institutions reported **no change** from last year
- Nearly 60% of WACUHO institutions reported **no change** from this time last year

Housing Numbers – How Do Institutions Stack Up

Highlights by Sector

- Public Institutions
 - 48% reported their **numbers are down**
 - 30% reported **numbers are up**
- Private, not-for-profit Institutions
 - 58% reported their **numbers are down**
 - 16% reported **numbers are up**

Housing Numbers – How Do Institutions Stack Up

Highlights by Bed Capacity

- Most institutions with < 3,000 beds (54%) and between 5,001 – 7,500 beds (61.5%) beds reported **numbers are down**
- More than 1 in 5 institutions with > 7,500 beds reported **no change** in their numbers compared to last year
- Across all bed capacities, around 1 in 5 schools reported their **numbers are up** compared to last year

Housing Numbers – How Do Institutions Stack Up

Highlights by Undergraduate Enrollment

- **Numbers are up** at 1 in 3 institutions with 20,001–30,000 and >30,000 students
- **Numbers are down** at 6 in 10 institutions with < 2,000 students, 10,001-20,000 students, and 20,001-30,000 students
- Nearly 30% of institutions with >30,000 students reported **no change** compared to last year
- At institutions with 2,001-10,000 students, 45% report **numbers are down** while 27% report **numbers are up**

Themes: How will the FAFSA Delay Impact Higher Ed?

Short-Term Impact

- Decline in housing and admission numbers, but once FAFSA issues resolve, there will be a return to normal
- Students do not have information to make informed financial decisions which may mean short and long-term implications
- Delay in enrollment among Pell Grant eligible and other low-income students, which may lead them to choose not to pursue a degree at all
- Delayed decisions mean possible influx of last-minute students

Themes: How will the FAFSA Delay Impact Higher Ed?

Short-Term Impact

- Possible that late cancellations will increase
- Adds 'fuel' to argument that 'higher education is not worth it'
- Changing to rolling admission model to make goals for this year
- More students may take a gap year before enrolling
- Being able to effectively budget (or not)

Themes: How will the FAFSA Delay Impact Higher Ed?

Long-Term Impact

- There may be a ripple effect where largest decline in numbers is felt next year or following years
- Increase in students transferring institutions due to dissatisfaction with their choice of school (not a good fit) or getting into a situation that is financially unsustainable
- Eroded trust in higher education, financial aid, Department of Education/FAFSA
- Changes in student demographic and retention/completion rates

Themes: How will the FAFSA Delay Impact Higher Ed?

Long-Term Impact

- Implications for strategic planning and resource allocation
- Reputation and competitiveness impacted – whether negative or positive will depend on institution
- Negative impact on public confidence
- Further marginalize students of color, undocumented, and other communities already marginalized
- May lead to more political/governmental oversight

Takeaways

- There appears to be growth at institutions in the SEAHO and UMR-ACUHO regions
 - It remains to be seen whether the increase in housing numbers remains after FAFSA issues are resolved (e.g., are numbers artificially inflated due to the ability of some students to put deposits at multiple schools?)

Takeaways

- Larger institutions appear to be faring better overall compared to smaller institutions, with housing numbers remaining stable or increasing compared to prior year
 - 30,000+ enrollment: 61% reported no change or increase in housing numbers