A Window into Repayment Challenges: Which borrowers experience student loan default and why

Phil Oliff



Consequences of Federal Student Loan Default

Borrowers with a defaulted loan may face several consequences simultaneously





Notation on credit



Collection fees



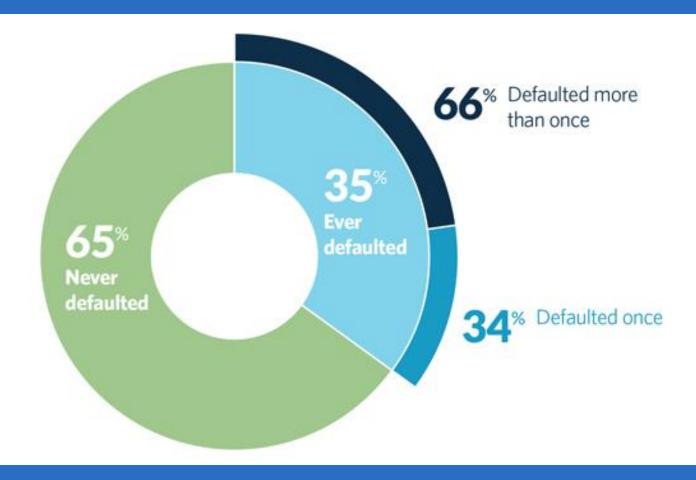
Ineligibility for more aid

— Agenda

- How widespread is default/redefault?
- Which borrowers have seen the highest rates of default?
- Why do borrowers experience default?
- How do borrowers who see their loans default experience the repayment system?

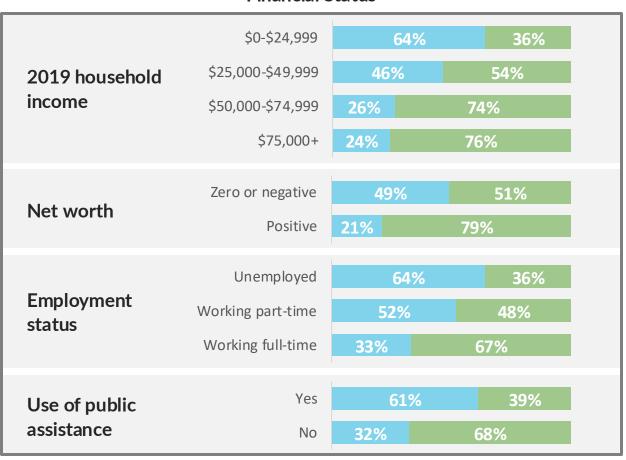
How Prevalent is Federal Student Loan Default?

Pew survey finds nearly 2/3rds of borrowers with default experience have defaulted multiple times

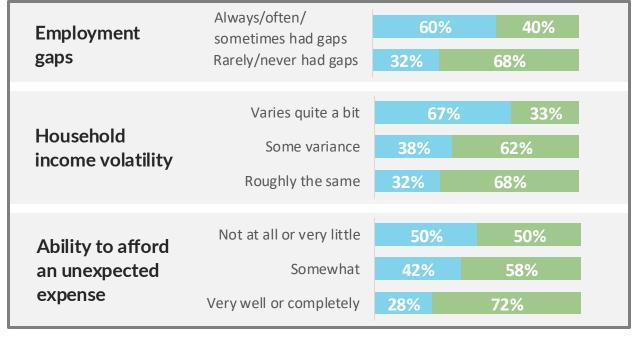


Default Disproportionately Impacts the Financially Vulnerable

Financial Status



Financial Disruptions

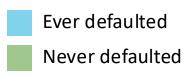


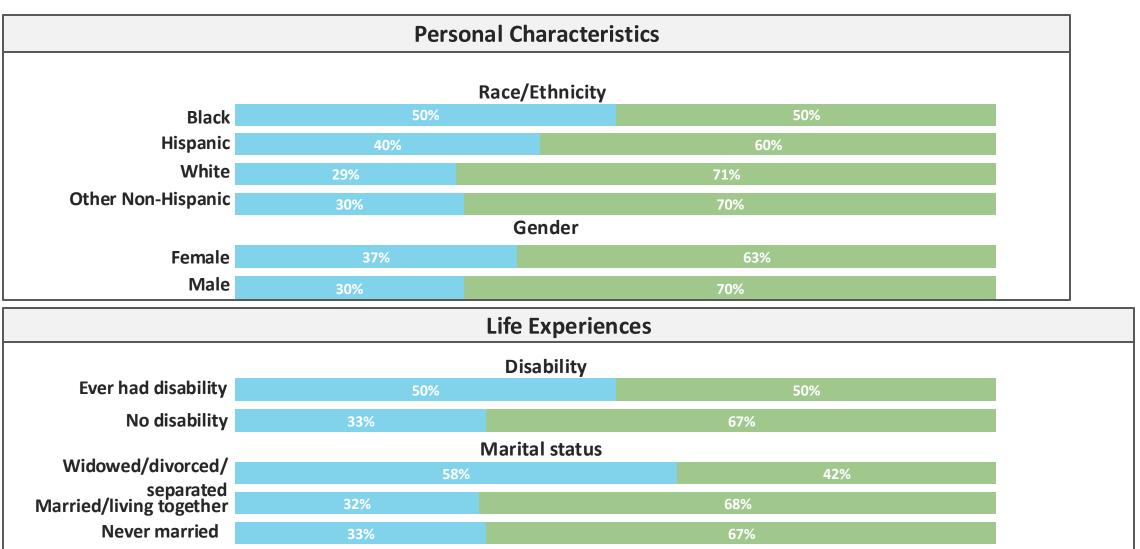
Ever Defaulted



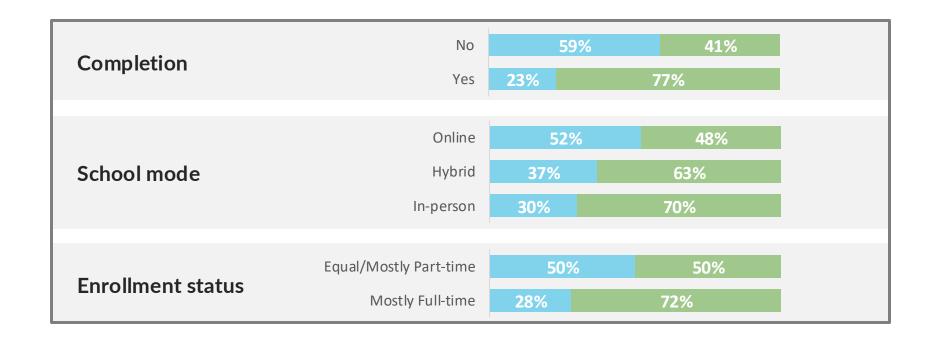
Never Defaulted

Default Disproportionately Impacts Certain Demographic Groups





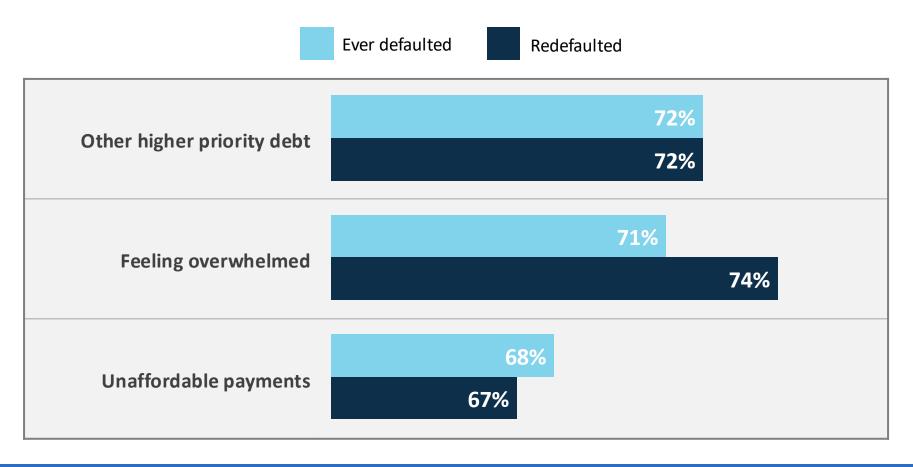
Certain Educational Experiences Are Linked to Default





Most Borrowers Gave the Same Three Reasons for Re/Default

Top Three Reasons Borrowers Cited For Defaulted/Redefaulted Loans (not mutually exclusive)



Basic Communication Barriers Exist for Struggling Borrowers

About three-quarters of borrowers who eventually experience default said they have ever communicated with their servicer prior to default.



74% | 61%



However, these borrowers are much less likely to say they are typically the ones doing the outreach to their servicer.*



35% | 65%

*Of those who ever communicated with their servicer

In fact, **nearly half** of these borrowers report **not knowing how to contact their servicer** prior to experiencing default.





48%

25%

Contact Info

Feel free to reach out!

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