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Affordability, Access, and the Role of Student Aid:
Improving the Link Between Research and Policy

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Examples of Recent Policy Studies on College Access and Affordability

- Lumina Foundation
 - *Unequal Opportunity: Disparities in College Access Among the 50 States*
 - *Meeting the Access Challenge: Indiana's Twenty-first Century Scholars Program*
- National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education
 - *Measuring Up 2000 and 2002*
 - *Losing Ground: A National Status Report on the Affordability of Higher Education*
- College Board, National Dialogue on Student Financial Aid
 - *Challenging Times, Clear Choices: An Action Agenda for College Access and Success*

Examples of Recent Policy Studies on College Access and Affordability

- Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance
 - *Access Denied: Restoring the Nation's Commitment to Equal Educational Opportunity*
 - *Empty Promises: The Myth of College Access in America*
- NCES
 - *What Students Pay for College: Changes in Net Price of College Attendance Between 1992-93 and 1999-2000*
 - *Persistence and attainment of beginning students with Pell Grants*
- Indiana Education Policy Center
 - *The Access Challenge: Rethinking the Causes of the New Inequality*

Report Summary

Report	Goals	Level of Analysis	Methodology	Key Findings
Lumina: <i>Unequal Opportunity</i> (2002)	"Calculate the accessibility of undergraduate education"	States, and public and private institutions	Descriptive	"Opportunities to attend college are unequal among states and students"
Lumina: <i>Meeting the Access Challenge</i> (2002)	Evaluate Indiana 21 st Century Scholars Program	Students	Descriptive and multivariate	Program "improves access for low-income students"
NCPPHE: <i>Measuring Up 2000 and 2002</i>	Grade states on postsecondary performance	States	Descriptive	"Higher education opportunity and its benefits remain unevenly distributed"
NCPPHE: <i>Losing Ground</i> (2002)	"Examine affordability of higher education"	Nation	Descriptive	The ratio of college costs to incomes has increased for all but wealthy families
College Board: <i>Challenging Times</i> (2003)	Inform reauthorization by refocusing aid on access goals	Students, govt., institutions	Varies	Reaffirm financial need as criterion for aid

Report Summary

Report	Goals	Level of Analysis	Methodology	Key Findings
<i>ACSFA: Access Denied</i> (2001)	Examine the status of college access for low income students	Students	Review of existing research	Reaffirm access as goal of federal aid; increase need-based aid
<i>ACSFA: Empty Promises</i> (2002)	Continue examination of access & project over next 10 years	Students	Review of existing research	Current policies project out to continuing participation gaps
<i>NCES: What Students Pay for College</i> (2002)	Examine changes in net tuition and COA from 1992-93 to 1999-2000	Full-time undergrads.	Descriptive	Net COA was largely unchanged, especially for lower-income students
<i>NCES: Persistence and Attainment of Pell Grant recipients</i> (2002)	Examine rates of persistence and degree attainment of Pell recipients	Students	Descriptive and multivariate	Pell recipients have lower persistence rates, but differences eliminated when covariates considered
<i>IEPC: The Access Challenge</i> (2002)	Examine NCES reports on enrollment behavior	Students	Review of existing research	NCES reports do not adequately control for role of finances in college enrollment