

## Tuition sticker price increase at 2-year college (for college students) Higher Education

Literature review updated August 2017.

As part of WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis. For detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#). At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

**Program Description:** The study in this analysis estimates the effects of a change in the price of tuition at 2-year colleges on students' likelihood of persisting from the beginning to the end of their first year of college. The result is presented as an "elasticity" and is interpreted as the percent change in an outcome we expect from a 1% increase in tuition price.

The study in this meta-analysis examines tuition price without subtracting federal Pell grants from full price values. In addition, the study uses individual-level data in its evaluation. Results of group-level analyses can differ from the results of analyses of the individuals within the same groups. The study in this analysis evaluates the effects of an increase in tuition price for students who are already enrolled in college. The population in the study is undocumented/illegal immigrants. Because undocumented/illegal immigrants experience a unique legal environment, it is unclear to what extent the results of this analysis are generalizable to the broader student population in Washington.

### Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Adjusted effect size and standard error			Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)	
			ES	SE	Age	ES	p-value
Persistence within 1st year **	1	33513	-0.088	0.093	18	-0.088	0.343

\*\* The effect size for this outcome represents an elasticity, not a standardized mean difference effect size.

Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome. WSIPP systematically evaluates all credible evaluations we can locate on each topic. The outcomes measured are the types of program impacts that were measured in the research literature (for example, crime or educational attainment). Treatment N represents the total number of individuals or units in the treatment group across the included studies.

An effect size (ES) is a standard metric that summarizes the degree to which a program or policy affects a measured outcome. If the effect size is positive, the outcome increases. If the effect size is negative, the outcome decreases.

Adjusted effect sizes are used to calculate the benefits from our benefit cost model. WSIPP may adjust effect sizes based on methodological characteristics of the study. For example, we may adjust effect sizes when a study has a weak research design or when the program developer is involved in the research. The magnitude of these adjustments varies depending on the topic area.

WSIPP may also adjust the second ES measurement. Research shows the magnitude of some effect sizes decrease over time. For those effect sizes, we estimate outcome-based adjustments which we apply between the first time ES is estimated and the second time ES is estimated. We also report the unadjusted effect size to show the effect sizes before any adjustments have been made. More details about these adjustments can be found in our [Technical Documentation](#).

### Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Conger, D. & Turner, L.J. (2015). *The impact of tuition increases on undocumented college students' attainment*. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

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