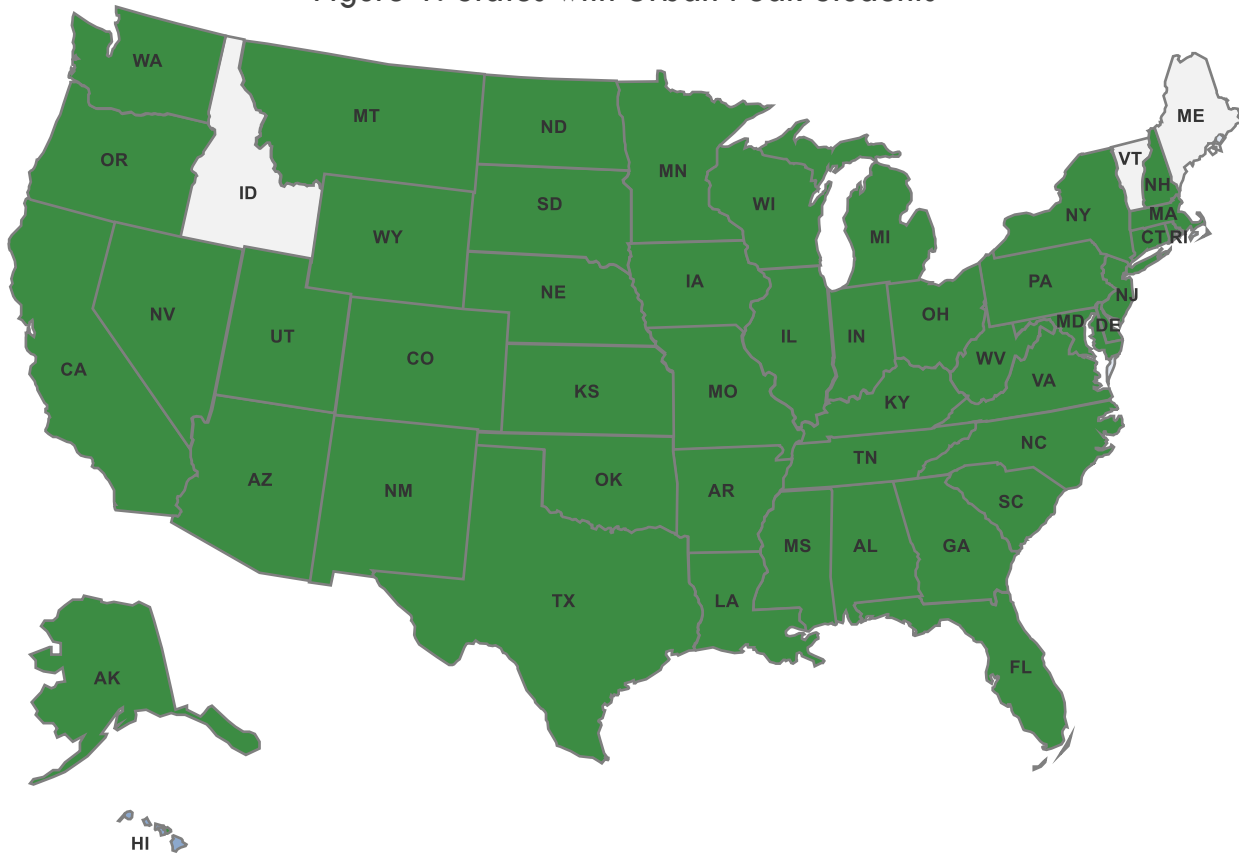


Urban Peak College Success

This document highlights students who received services from Urban Peak and enrolled at a college or university. All data in this report focuses on individuals served by Urban Peak from 2010 to the present.

College Enrollment

Figure 1: States with Urban Peak Students

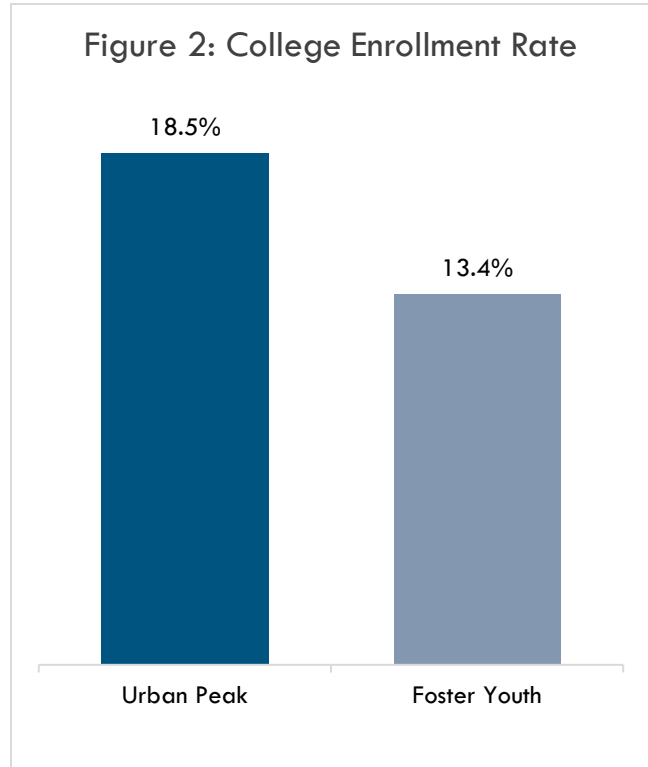


Urban Peak served 8,717 individuals between 2010 to 2020, of which 1,614 individuals (18.5%) attended, or are currently attending, a college or university. The map above shows Urban Peak college-going students attended schools in 47 states. A solid majority remained in Colorado (64.9%).

Approximately 18.5% of Urban Peak youth enrolled at a college or university – 5.1 points higher than the rate of foster youth who enrolled in Colorado (Myers et. al., 2020). Foster youth are used as a comparison as they share many qualities with homeless youth such as a lack of a permanent residence, high levels of neglect and abuse, and rates of being homeless as young adults (O’Neale, 2021; Gaetz et al., 1996; Rotheram-Boris, et al., 1996).

According to Affordable Colleges Online (2021) and the National Center for Homeless Education (2012), there are several reasons why homeless younger adults do not pursue higher education, which include:

- 🌐 Lack of access to technology,
- 🌐 Balancing work and school,
- 🌐 Lack of adult support,
- 🌐 Lack of knowledge on services and financial assistance.



Access to technology is a critical barrier, because it means they do not have the tools needed to do their coursework, such as a laptop. Homeless youth cannot assure these tools can be secured, as they cannot guarantee they will stay in safe, or permanent, locations (Affordable Colleges Online, 2021; National Center for Homeless Education, 2012; Pearson, 2015). Homeless students also balance heavy workloads needed to pay for basic needs, forcing them to choose between spending time on an education (and paying for tuition) or working and paying the bills. Homeless students also lack the guidance and support of adults who can assist them with navigating the application process and accessing resources. The final barrier is the inability to attain financial assistance or knowledge of services that can aid their success. For example, some cannot complete the FAFSA because they do not have their parents’ financial information, which prevents them from getting key financial aid. Some homeless youth are hesitant to self-identify as homeless, which is a detriment to getting support and aid as it enables them to access key support systems on campus (National Center for Homeless Education, 2012).

Cohort Information

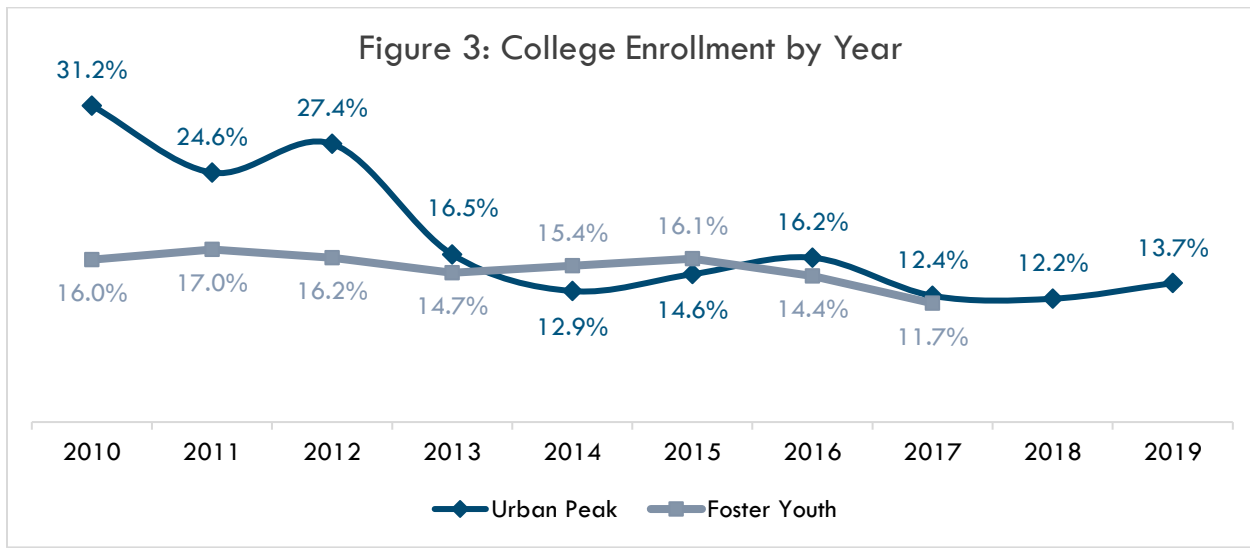
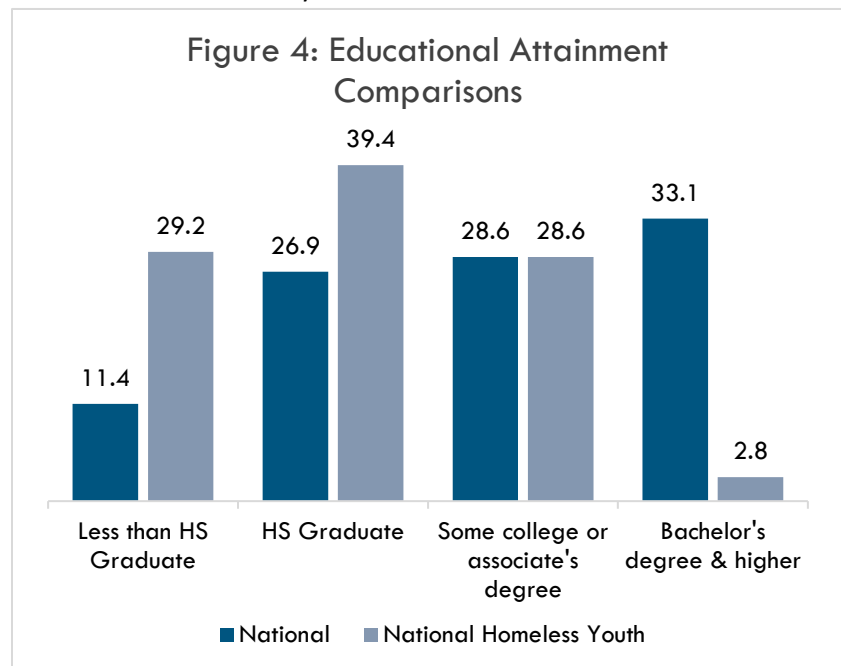


Figure 3 highlights the proportion of students from each year who enrolled at a college or university (based on the students' individual search year, as reported by the National Student Clearinghouse), compared to foster youth who enrolled at a college or university (Myers et al., 2020).¹ While foster youth attended college at fairly steady rates over the past decade, Urban Peak's influence is evident in the much higher attendance rates for 2010 to 2013 cohort years. The lower enrollment rates for students in the more recent cohorts indicates that acquiring a high school diploma or equivalent is a considerable barrier to accessing post-secondary education.

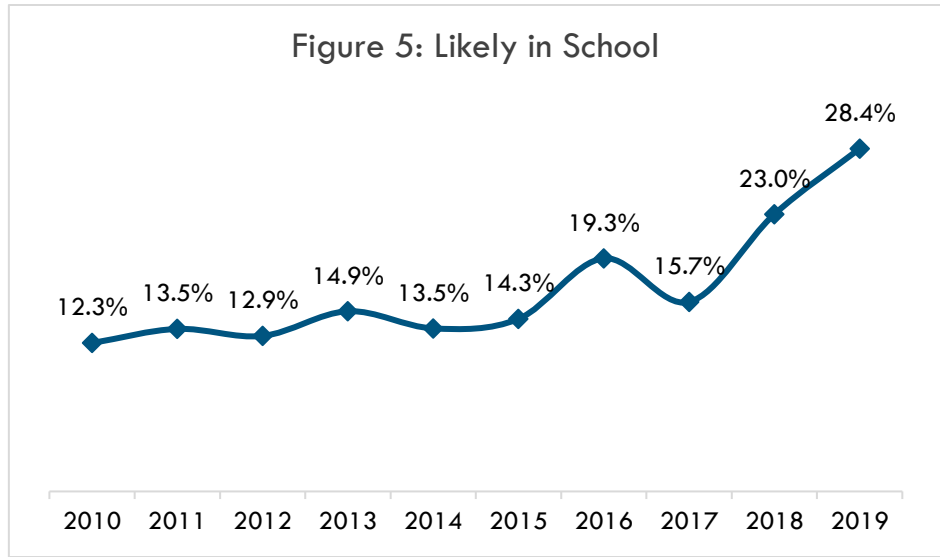
Figure 4 shows the educational attainment of the national population compared to homeless youth. It is apparent that homeless youth are more likely to be undereducated – not completing high school – preventing a sizeable number



¹ The 2019 group likely contains students served in 2020, and possibly were not separated out by the National Student Clearinghouse.

from enrolling in a post-secondary program (American Community Survey, 2020; Current Population Survey, 2021).²

While the college enrollment rates are a reflection of the barriers homeless youth encounter (see discussion on page 2), they also reflect



circumstances brought about during the pandemic. According to the National Student Clearinghouse (2020), college enrollment for all schools declined by 2.5%, with the largest declines coming from public, 2-year institutions (10.5%) – the institutions Urban Peak students are most likely to enroll (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Type of School

Attendance	Private	Public
Two Year	2.1%	69.3%
Four Year	12.2%	16.4%

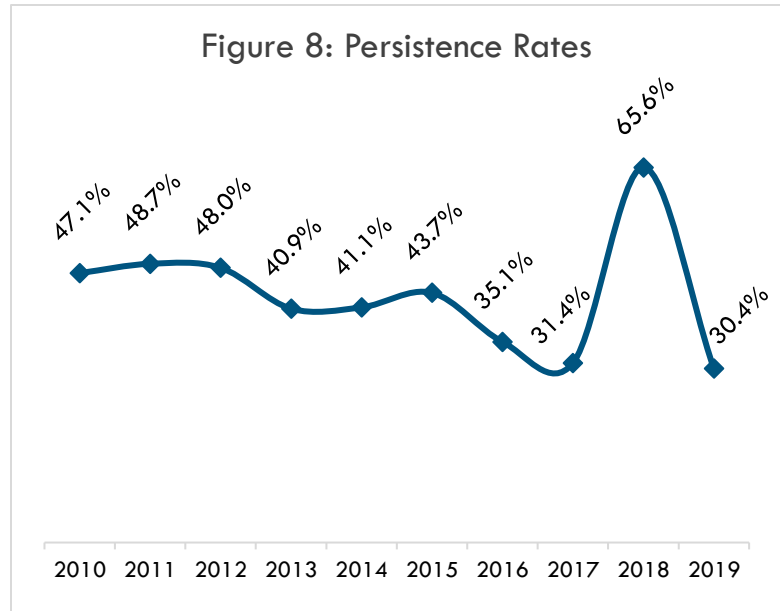
The most popular school among Urban Peak students is the Community College of Denver (26.6%), reflecting the importance of affordability, proximity, and access for homeless students. Existing programs at CCD for homeless youth range from financial aid to mentoring, and work well to help keep students engaged in college.

Figure 7: Popular Schools

Name	Percent	Year	Public/Private
Community College of Denver	26.6%	2	Public
Metro State University	6.0%	4	Public
Red Rocks Community College	5.0%	2	Public
Arapahoe Community College	4.4%	2	Public
Community College of Aurora	3.8%	2	Public
Front Range Community College	3.6%	2	Public
Emily Griffith	2.4%	2	Public
Pueblo Community College	1.8%	2	Public
Pikes Peak Community College	1.7%	2	Public
Colorado Technical University	1.4%	4	Private

² This was determined by the proportion of students who were in school in December, 2020 to the present.

Approximately 44% of all college-going students returned to their college between their first year and second year. Students who persist have the academic performance to continue their education (Stewart, Lim & Kim, 2015), and data from the National Center for Education Statistics (2021) show schools with higher rates of persistence have higher graduation rates, reinforcing the importance of persistence as a necessary component to graduating with a college degree.



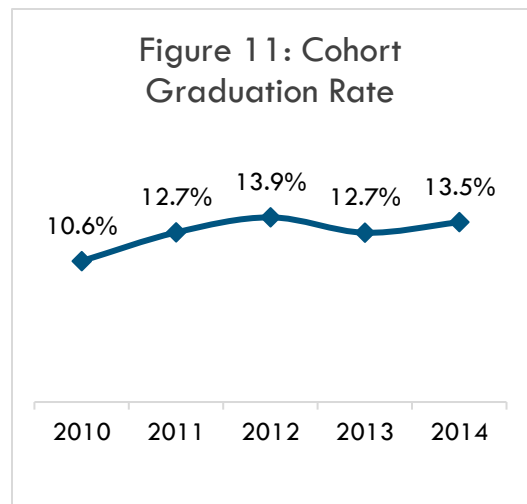
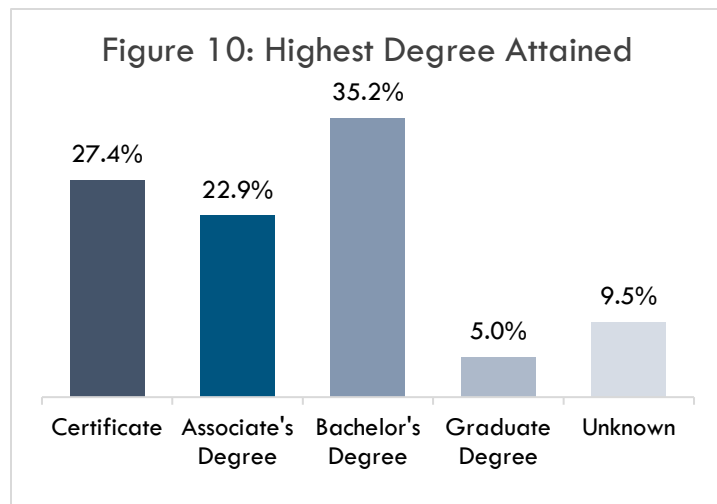
Graduated

Most of the degrees attained by Urban Peak youth are from two-year, public institutions, followed by four-year public institutions (57.7% and 24.0%, respectively).

Figure 9: Type of School Graduated

School	Private	Public
Two Year	7.4%	57.7%
Four Year	10.9%	24.0%

More than 40% of all Urban Peak graduates earned a four-year degree (Bachelor’s degree and graduate degrees).³ The National Student Clearinghouse reported 9.5% of Urban Peak graduates earned a degree, but did not state the type of degree (Unknown).



³ The last reported graduation year is 2014, as most students complete a degree within six years, and individuals in the other cohorts possibly have not completed their educations (Complete College America, 2014).

Potential Impact

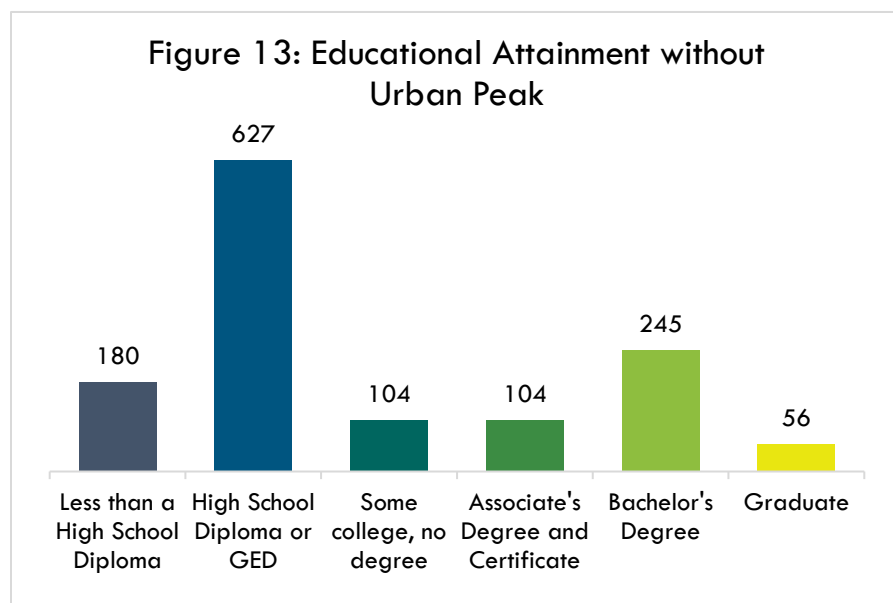
Figure 12: Economic Power

Level	Median Salary	Normal Unemployment Rate ⁴
Less than HS Diploma	\$29,600	5.4%
HS Diploma	\$37,300	3.7%
Some college, no degree	\$41,650	3.3%
Associate's Degree & Certificate	\$44,350	2.7%
Bachelor's Degree	\$62,400	2.2%
Graduate	\$74,850	2.0%

Urban Peak had a profound, positive impact on the people it served, especially among its college-going population. Higher educational attainment results in higher earnings

and a lower chance of unemployment (see Figure 12) (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020). Figure 12 shows that having a degree results in stronger economic security. Even those with some college earn more than those with a high school diploma. Barnard (2020) of the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal finds there are several high paying jobs for individuals with some college education. These employees combine classroom and work-experience as a stepping stone to enhance their individual careers, often earning their college degrees when they are middle-aged, setting-up a more secure retirement.

Figure 13 presents an alternate scenario if college-going students did not receive Urban Peak services. In all likelihood, less than half would not have gone on to a college or university, which is based on the educational attainment of homeless individuals (Current Population Survey, 2021). This means 180



individuals would earn far less than what is needed to survive in the Denver Metropolitan Area (\$37,207), and would likely rely on social services. But this did not occur because Urban Peak provided key services for these students, empowering them to enroll (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021; Glasmeir & Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2020).⁵

⁴ This unemployment rate is used to capture what a year with normal circumstances may look like.

⁵ Inferences to the non-college attending Urban Peak participants cannot be made because their educational attainment is unknown, so the alternate scenario focuses exclusively on the 1,614 college-going students.