



EDUCATION
NETWORK

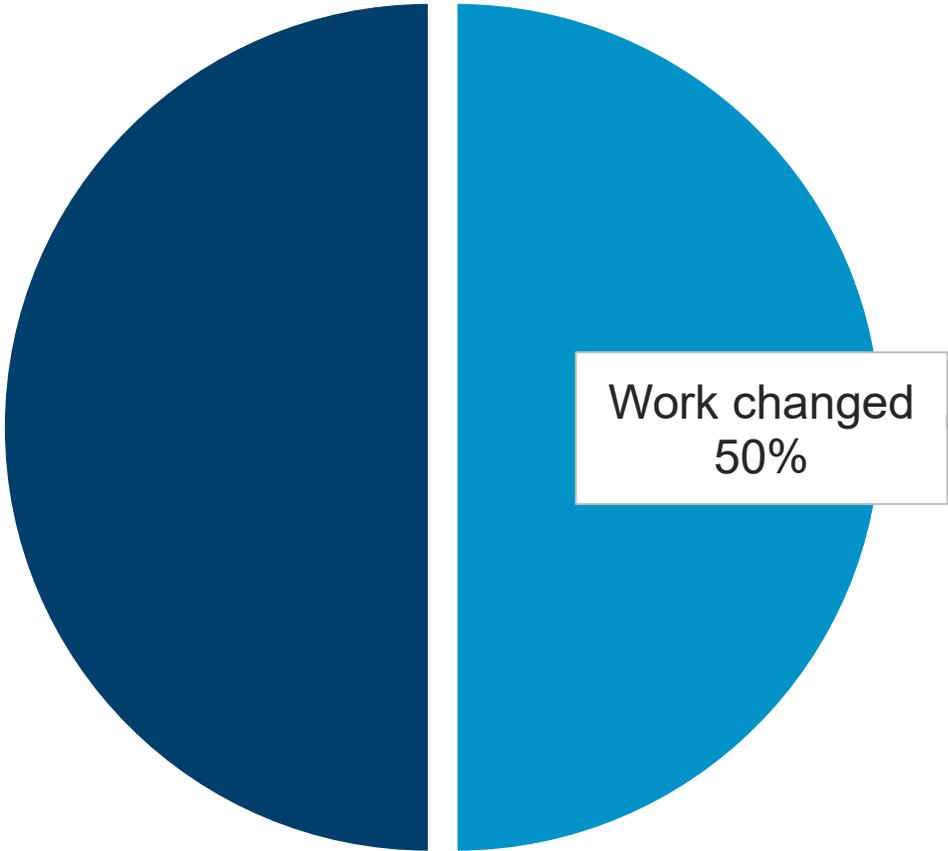
Public Viewpoint

Back to Class: Will Pandemic-Disrupted Learners
Return to School?

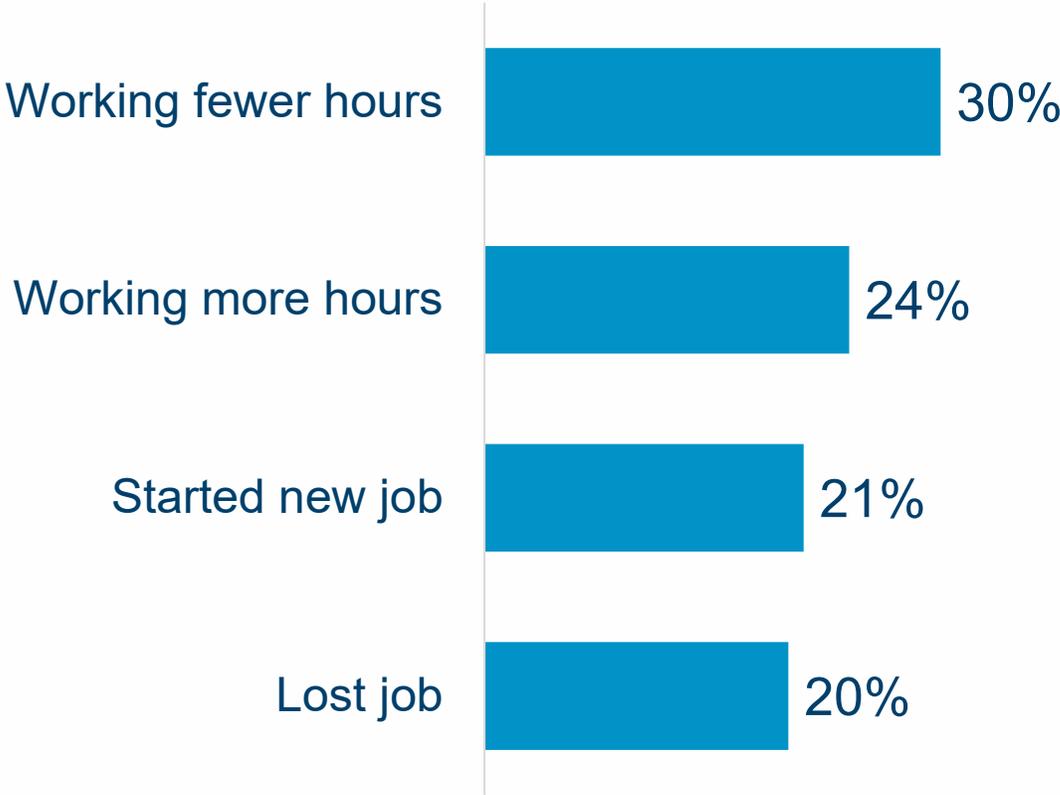
The Effects of the Pandemic on Work and Education

Half of U.S. adults had their work change in some way as a result of the COVID-19 economic crisis

Share of adults

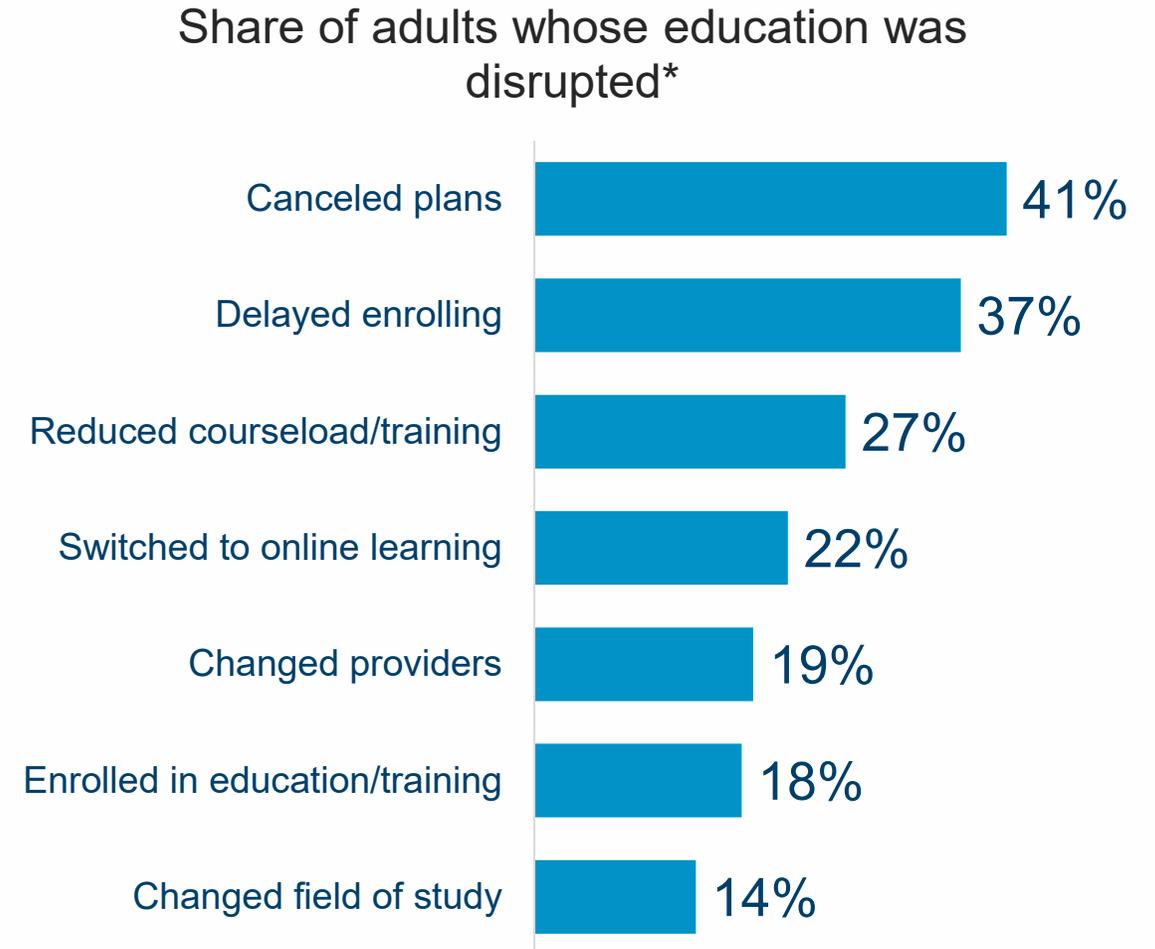
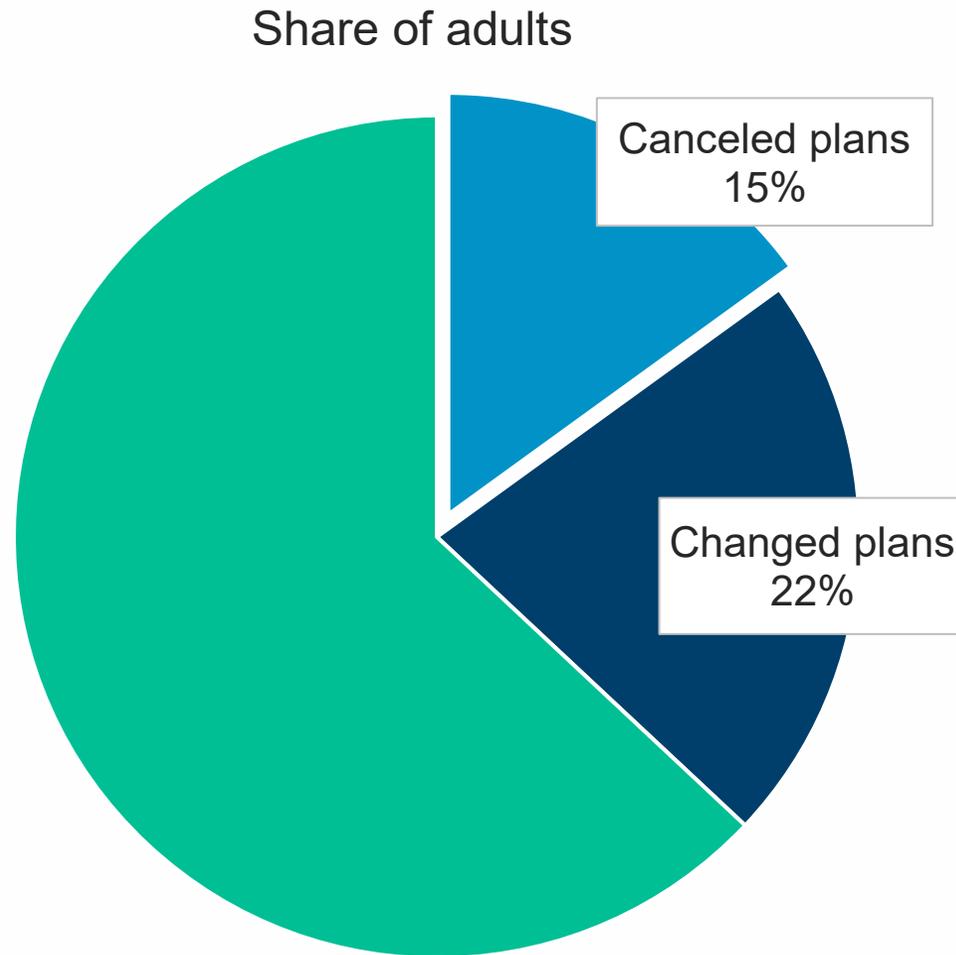


Share of adults whose work has changed*



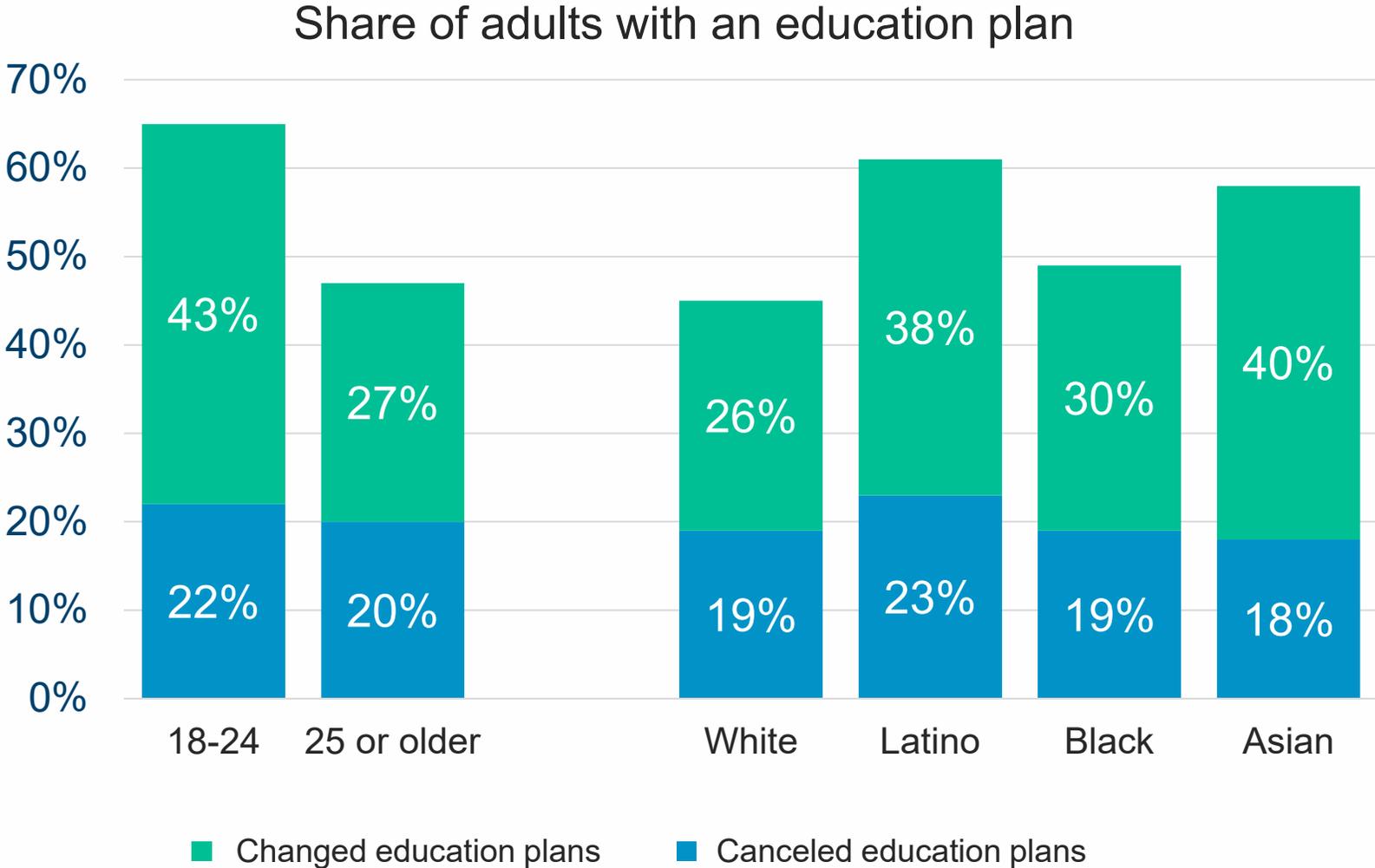
Source: Strada Public Viewpoint surveys, February to April 2021. Base: nonretired adults ages 18 and older, n=2,291. *Percentages do not sum to 100 percent as respondents could identify multiple changes.

More than one-third of U.S. adults changed or canceled their education plans as a result of the COVID-19 crisis



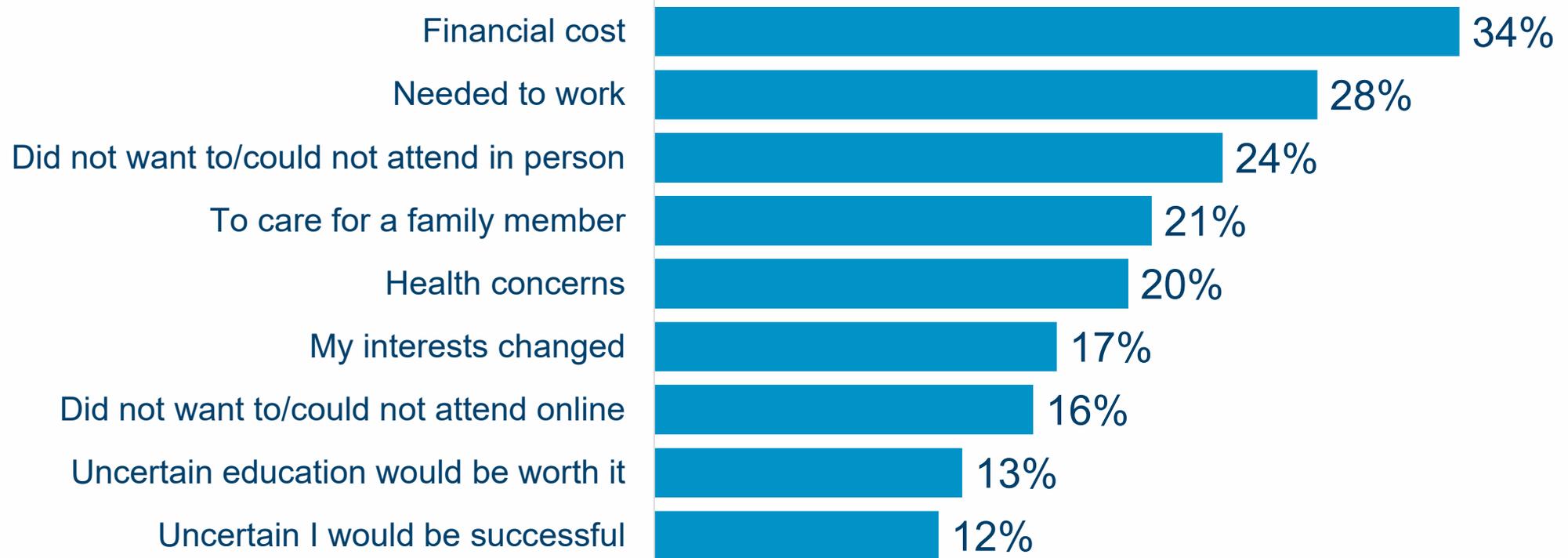
Source: Strada Public Viewpoint surveys, February to April 2021. Base: nonretired adults ages 18 and older, n=2,291. *Percentages do not sum to 100 percent as respondents could identify multiple changes.

Among learners, young adults, Latinos, and Asian Americans are more likely to have had their education disrupted



Learners had varied motivations for changing or canceling their education plans

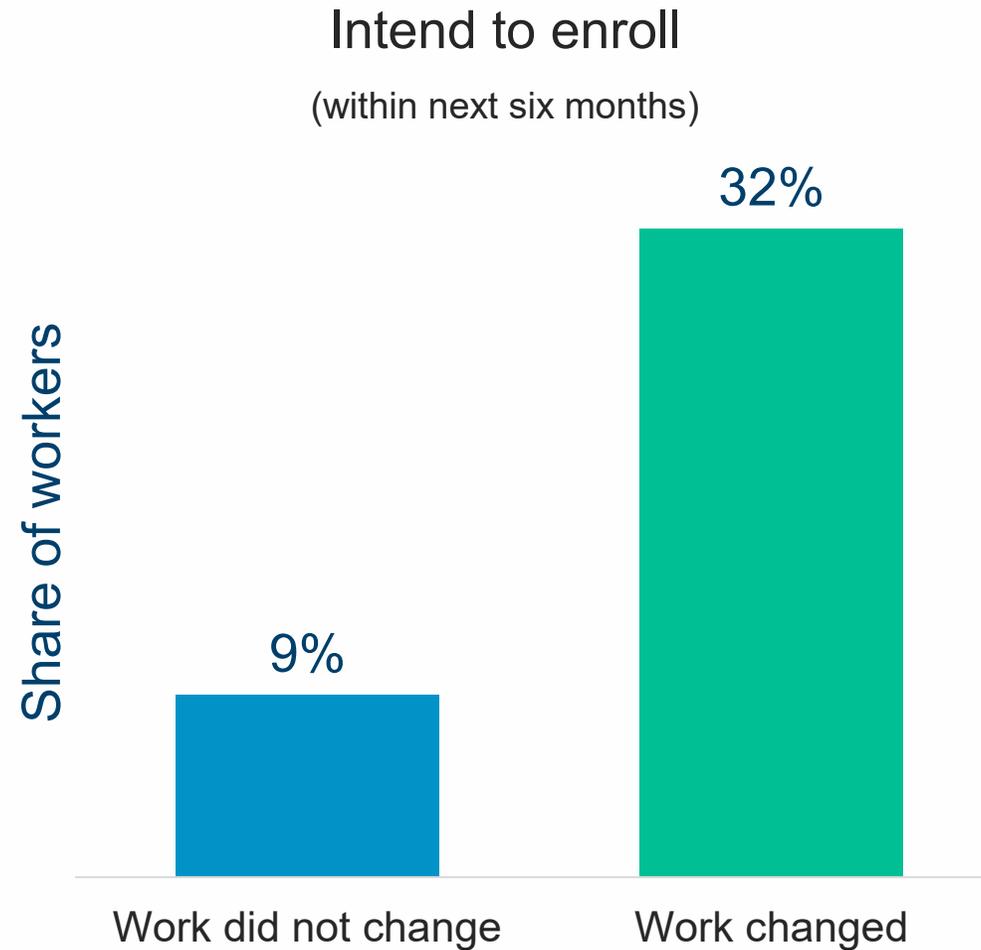
Reasons for changing/canceling education plans



Share of adults whose education was disrupted by COVID-19

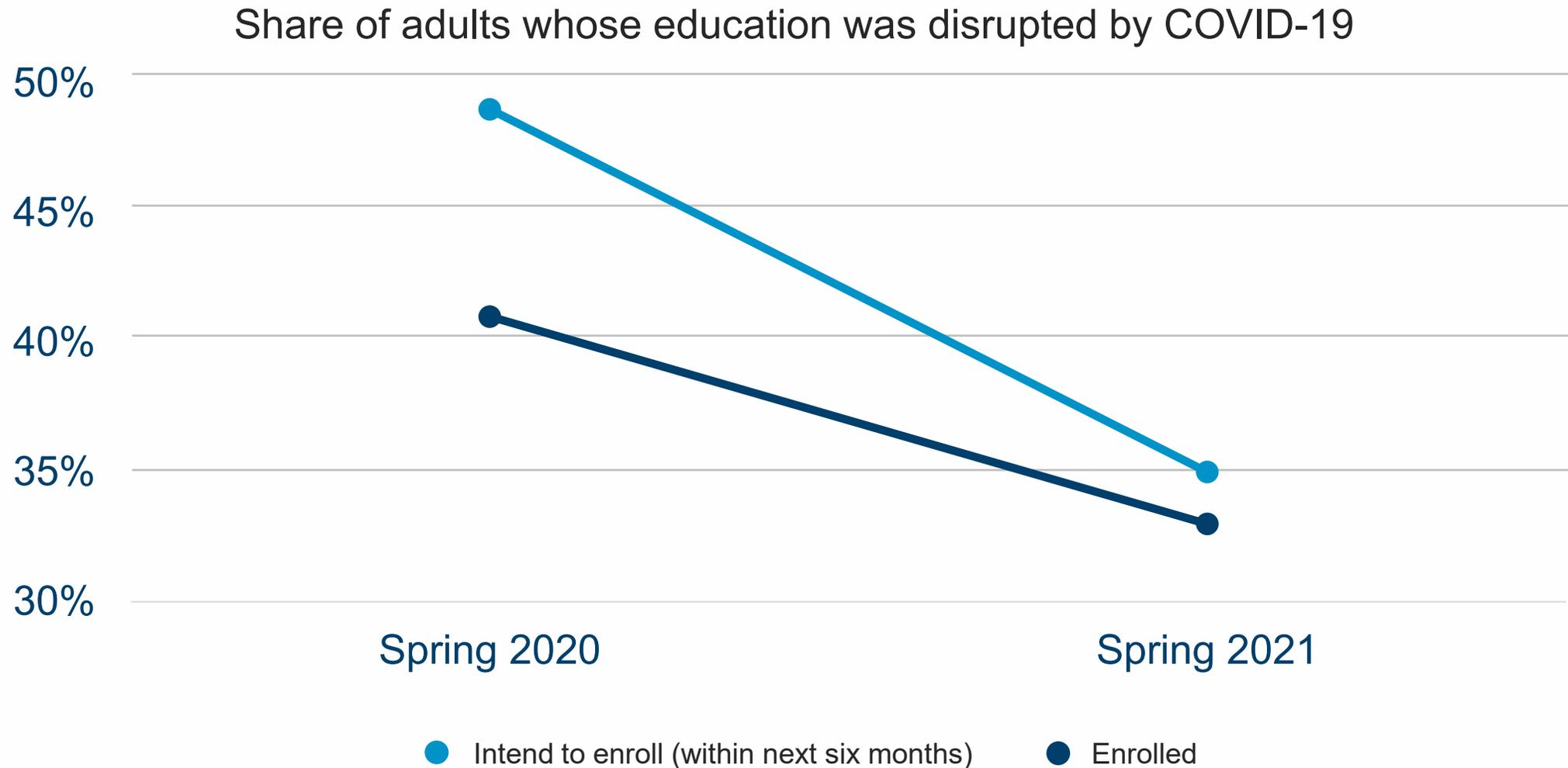
How Disrupted Workers and Learners Are Faring

Those who experienced a work change resulting from the pandemic are more than three times more likely to intend to enroll in education



Source: Strada Public Viewpoint surveys, February to April 2021. Base: nonretired adults ages 18 and older whose work changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, n=1,276.

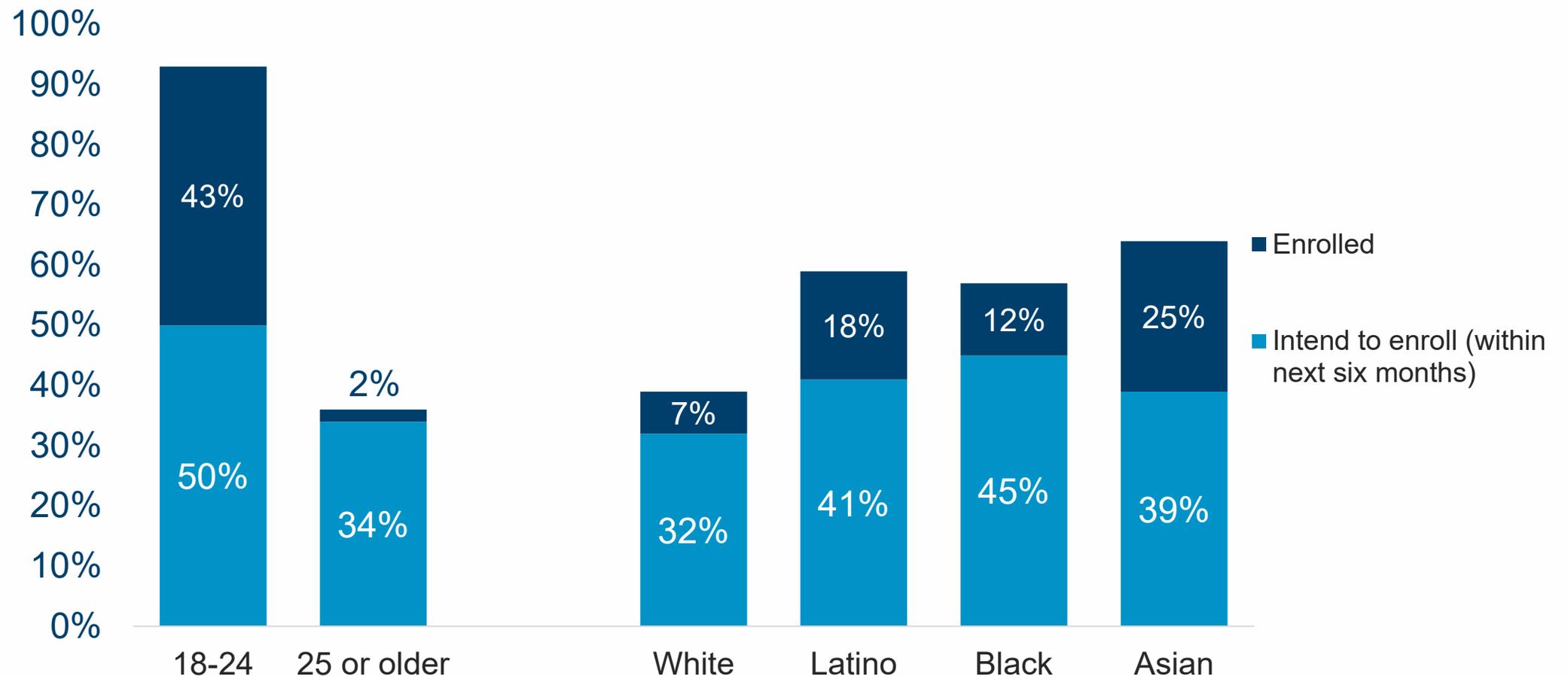
Compared to a year ago, a smaller share of disrupted learners are returning to education



Source: Strada Public Viewpoint surveys, February to April 2021. Base: nonretired adults ages 18 and older who changed or canceled their education plans because of the COVID-19 pandemic, n=845.

Among those whose education was disrupted by the pandemic, young adults and Black and Latino adults are more likely to pursue education

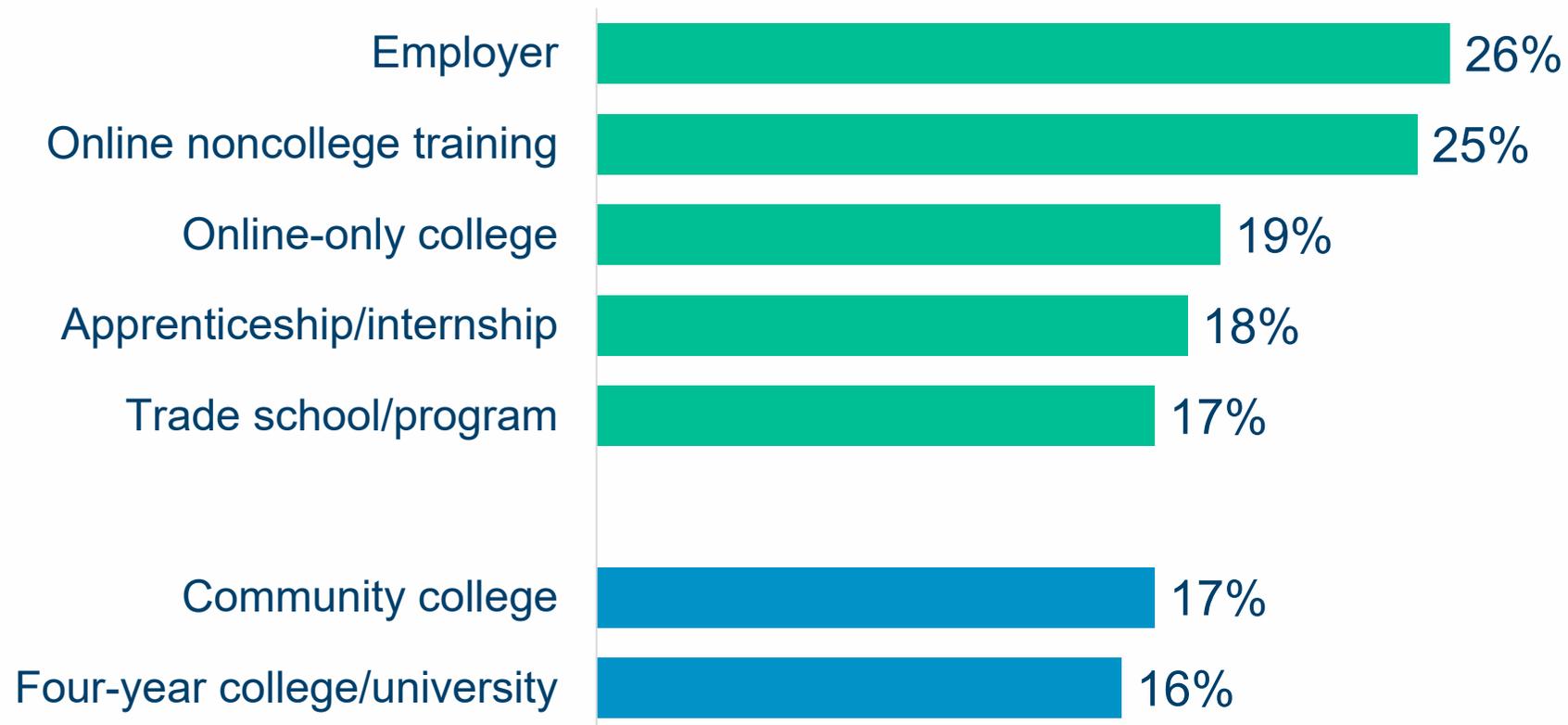
Share of adults whose education was disrupted by COVID-19



Source: Strada Public Viewpoint surveys, February to April 2021. Base: nonretired adults ages 18 and older who changed or canceled their education plans because of the COVID-19 pandemic, n=845.

Disrupted learners are more likely to enroll in work-based and nontraditional options

Share of disrupted learners who intend to enroll in an education/training program in the next six months



Source: Strada Public Viewpoint surveys, February to April 2021. Base: nonretired adults ages 18 and older who changed or canceled their education plans because of the COVID-19 pandemic, n=394. *Percentages do not sum to 100 percent as respondents were able to select multiple options.

Key Findings

- **To date, more than one-third of adults have had to change or cancel their education plans, including 2 in 3 young adults and 3 in 5 Latinos.** Two-fifths of these disrupted learners have canceled their plans altogether. Other common changes included delaying enrollment, reducing coursework, and switching to online learning.
- **Financial costs and competing work demands were the most cited reasons for having to change or cancel education plans, followed by a lack of viable in-person learning options.** Meanwhile, 1 in 4 said they changed or canceled plans because they could not or did not want to attend an in-person setting.
- **Many Americans whose work and education changed because of the pandemic are turning to education to get back on their feet.** Among U.S. adults who experienced a work-related change, 7 percent have enrolled in an education program, and 37 percent said they intend to enroll in an education program within the next six months. Of those whose learning was disrupted by the pandemic, 33 percent are currently enrolled, and 35 percent intend to enroll in the near future.
- **Some disrupted learners, especially adults over 25 and white Americans, have given up their pursuit of education.** Compared to a year ago, the share of disrupted learners who are enrolled or intend to enroll in an education program in the next six months has declined from 90 percent to 68 percent.
- **Americans whose learning was disrupted are most interested in nontraditional learning options.** Among disrupted learners who said they planned to enroll in an education or training program in the next six months, 1 in 4 said they were planning to pursue an employer-based learning option. The same share said they would pursue an online noncollege learning option. A smaller share of these learners, 1 in 6, said they would pursue a learning option at four-year colleges and universities or community colleges.

Methodology

- Results for the Strada Public Viewpoint are based on three web surveys conducted from February to April with adults ages 18 and older who live in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. For the national survey, there were 3,006 responses.

The data are nationally representative in terms of age, education, gender, race, ethnicity, and region. Retirees are excluded from this analysis which yields a sample of 2,106.

A theoretical margin of error based on a probability sample of size 1,500 would be +/- 2.5 percent at 95 percent confidence. This is not a probability-based sample, and a margin of error cannot be estimated. Based on experience, we believe the sampling error would be at least this number.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

- Please contact Strada with questions or information requests at consumervoice@stradaeducation.org or learn more at StradaEducation.org/PublicViewpoint.

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