# Sources of Default and Delinquency among Student Loan Borrowers 

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## Two Crises in Student Loan History



## First Crisis: Entry of new institutions surged in early 1980s



## New institutions were high-risk (for-profit, correspondence)



## Resolution: Strong accountability standards



## Second crisis is similar in one dimension: New borrowers



## The number of borrowers at higher-risk institutions surged...



## ...and they were higher-risk borrowers

Family Income


First Generation


Dependent


Completion


## Conclusion: Increase in default rates largely due to composition

## 3-Year Cohort Default Rate



## Expansion in credit also involved increases borrowing amounts



## ..and accumulated to very large balances for some borrowers



## Result: small share of borrowers with balances over $\$ 50,000$ owe

 majority of the debt

## Most debt is held by borrowers in the top half of the income

 distribution
## Federal Student Debt Owed by Income Quintile



## Large-balance borrowers rarely default (Five-year default rate, 2000s)



## Composition of borrowers with >\$50k balances (borrower type)




## Composition of borrowers with >\$50k balances (institution type)




## Substantial heterogeneity across institutions:

5-Year repayment rates by institution repayment rate decile

$\square$ Undergraduate $\square$ Graduate $\square$ Parent

