

Economic diversity and student outcomes at

Williams College

Williamstown, Massachusetts

The median family income of a student from Williams is **\$185,800**, and **67%** come from the top 20 percent. Less than **1%** of students at Williams came from a poor family but became a rich adult.

A new study, based on millions of anonymous tax records, shows that some colleges are even more economically segregated than previously understood, while others are associated with income mobility.

Below, estimates of how Williams compares with its peer schools in economic diversity and student outcomes.

SCHOOL TYPE
Other elite schools (public and private)

CLASS SIZE*
492

ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
New England Small College Athletic Conference

Looking for a different college?

ACCESS

What kind of students attend Williams

■ Among the lowest □ About typical ■ Among the highest

		IN THE NESCAC	IN MASSACHUSETTS	AMONG OTHER ELITE SCHOOLS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) COLLEGES
Median family income	\$185,800	■	■	□
Average income percentile	78th	■	■	□
Share of students from top 0.1%	2.8%	□	■	■
...from top 1%	18%	□	■	□
...from top 5%	42%	■	■	□
...from top 10%	55%	■	■	□
...from top 20%	67%	■	■	□
...from bottom 20%	5.3%	■	□	■

OUTCOMES

How Williams students fare later in life

■ Among the lowest □ About typical ■ Among the highest

		IN THE NESCAC	IN MASSACHUSETTS	AMONG OTHER ELITE SCHOOLS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) COLLEGES
Median individual income at age 34	\$62,600	□	■	□
...for men	\$78,900	□	■	□
...for women	\$52,200	□	□	□
Average income percentile	72nd	□	□	□
Share who end up in the top 1%	13%	■	■	■
...in the top 5%	29%	□	■	□
...in the top 10%	40%	□	■	□
...in the top 20%	54%	□	□	□
...in the bottom 20%	8.4%	□	□	□
Avg. income percentile of a poor student	64th	□	□	□
...of a rich student	73rd	□	□	□
Pct. married in 2014	57%	□	□	□

MOBILITY

Share of students at Williams who ...

■ Among the lowest □ About typical ■ Among the highest

IN THE NESCAC IN MASSACHUSETTS AMONG OTHER ELITE SCHOOLS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE) COLLEGES

Moved up two or more income quintiles	9.3%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moved from the bottom to top income quintile	<1%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COLLEGE BY COLLEGE

Comparing Williams with its peers

Median parent income

For students born in 1991, approximately the class of 2013, in 2015 dollars.

COMPARE TO: Massachusetts colleges | Other elite colleges | **NESCAC colleges** | All colleges

10th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC

No. 1 Trinity College (Conn.) \$257,100	No. 2 Middlebury \$244,300	No. 3 Colby \$236,100	No. 4 Bates \$226,500	No. 5 Tufts \$224,800	No. 6 Hamilton \$208,600	No. 7 Conn College \$197,800	No. 8 Bowdoin \$195,900	No. 9 Wesleyan \$192,400	No. 10 Williams \$185,800	No. 11 Amherst \$158,200
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HIGHEST [Trinity College \(Conn.\)](#) \$257,100

LOWEST (NO. 11) [Amherst](#) \$158,200

Share of students from top one percent

Families who made about \$630,000 or more per year.

COMPARE TO: Massachusetts colleges | Other elite colleges | **NESCAC colleges** | All colleges

9th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC

No. 1 Trinity College (Conn.) 26%	No. 2 Middlebury 23%	No. 3 Amherst 21%	No. 4 Colby 20%	No. 5 Bowdoin 20%	No. 6 Hamilton 20%	No. 7 Tufts 19%	No. 8 Bates 18%	No. 9 Williams 18%	No. 10 Conn College 18%	No. 11 Wesleyan 17%
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HIGHEST [Trinity College \(Conn.\)](#) 26%

LOWEST (NO. 11) [Wesleyan](#) 17%

Share of students from top fifth

Families who made about \$110,000 or more per year.

COMPARE TO: Massachusetts colleges | Other elite colleges | **NESCAC colleges** | All colleges

10th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC

No. 1 Tufts 77%	No. 2 Bates 76%	No. 3 Middlebury 76%	No. 4 Colby 76%	No. 5 Trinity College (Conn.) 75%	No. 6 Conn College 73%	No. 7 Hamilton 72%	No. 8 Wesleyan 70%	No. 9 Bowdoin 69%	No. 10 Williams 67%	No. 11 Amherst 60%
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HIGHEST [Tufts](#) 77%

LOWEST (NO. 11) [Amherst](#) 60%

Share of students from bottom fifth

Families who made about \$20,000 or less per year.

COMPARE TO: Massachusetts colleges | Other elite colleges | **NESCAC colleges** | All colleges

1st out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC

No. 1 Williams 5.3%	No. 2 Amherst 4.7%	No. 3 Wesleyan 4.5%	No. 4 Bowdoin 3.8%	No. 5 Conn College 3.8%	No. 6 Trinity College (Conn.) 3%	No. 7 Tufts 2.9%	No. 8 Bates 2.8%	No. 9 Middlebury 2.7%	No. 10 Hamilton 2.2%	No. 11 Colby 2%
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HIGHEST [Williams](#) 5.3%

LOWEST (NO. 11) [Colby](#) 2%

Chance a poor student has to become a rich adult

The share of children who were from the bottom fifth of incomes as students and moved to the top fifth as adults.

COMPARE TO: Massachusetts colleges | Other elite colleges | **NESCAC colleges** | All colleges

11th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC

No. 1 Tufts	No. 2 Colby	No. 3 Hamilton	No. 4 Middlebury	No. 5 Trinity College (Conn.)	No. 6 Conn College	No. 7 Wesleyan	No. 8 Amherst	No. 9 Bowdoin	No. 10 Bates	No. 11 Williams
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HIGHEST [Tufts](#) 62%

LOWEST (NO. 11) [Williams](#) 31%

Median student income at age 34

Incomes continue to grow, but the relative ranks remain roughly stable after this age.

COMPARE TO: [Massachusetts colleges](#) | [Other elite colleges](#) | **NESCAC colleges** | [All colleges](#)

4th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC



HIGHEST [Tufts](#) \$73,100

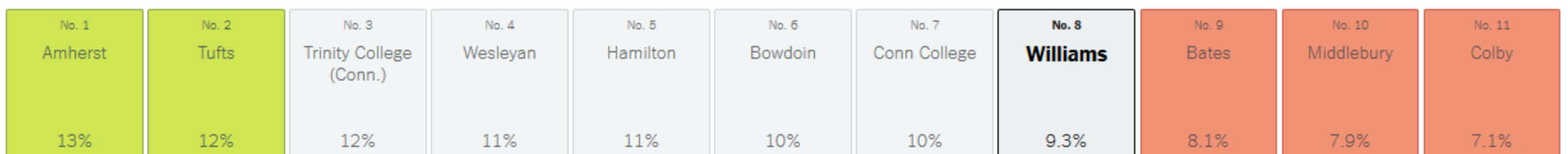
LOWEST (NO. 11) [Conn College](#) \$55,500

Overall mobility index

This measure reflects both access and outcomes, representing the likelihood that a student at Williams moved up two or more income quintiles.

COMPARE TO: [Massachusetts colleges](#) | [Other elite colleges](#) | **NESCAC colleges** | [All colleges](#)

8th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC



HIGHEST [Amherst](#) 13%

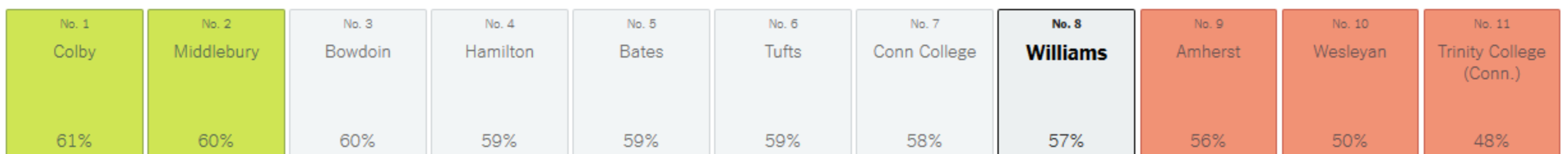
LOWEST (NO. 11) [Colby](#) 7.1%

Married in 2014

For students born between 1980-82, roughly the college class of 2002.

COMPARE TO: [Massachusetts colleges](#) | [Other elite colleges](#) | **NESCAC colleges** | [All colleges](#)

8th out of 11 colleges in the NESCAC

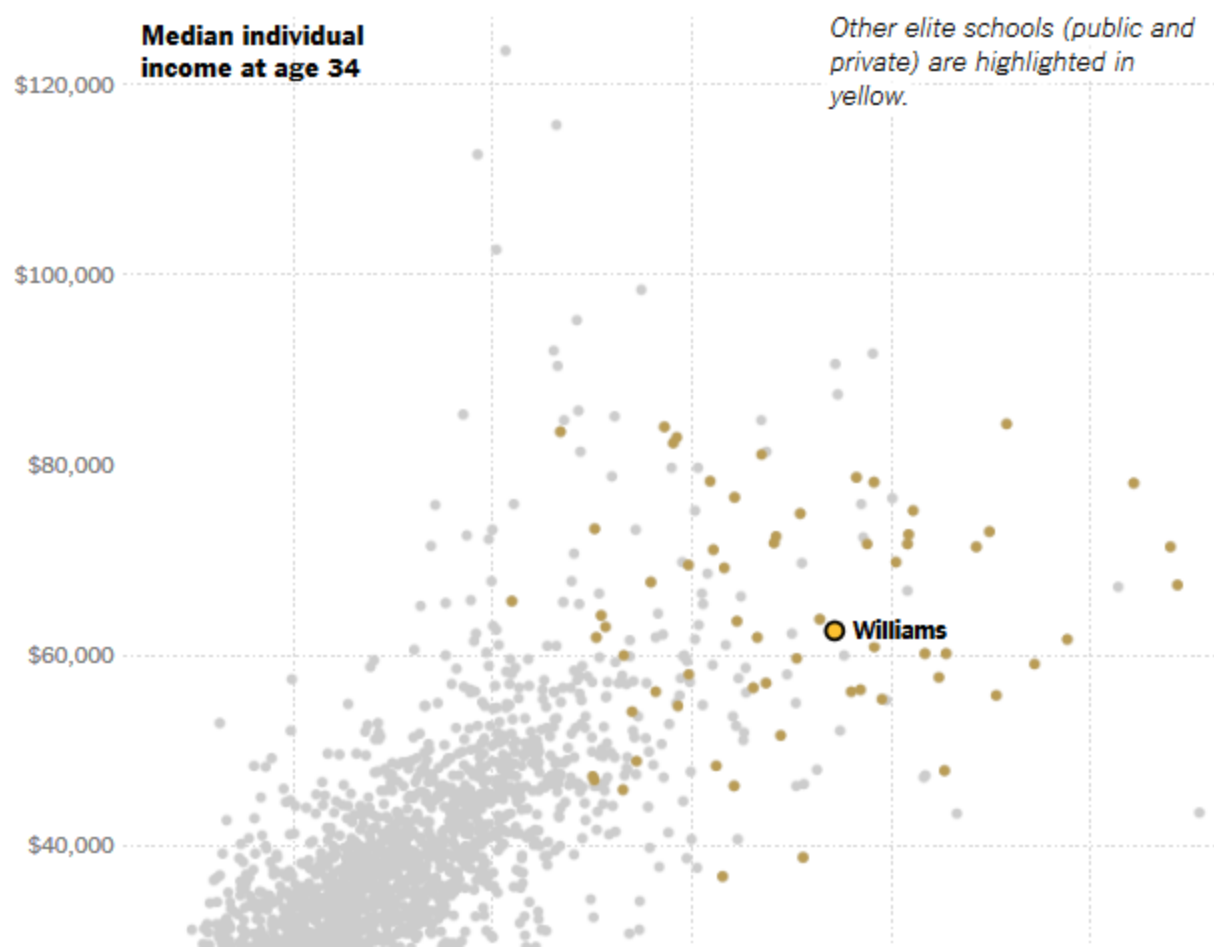


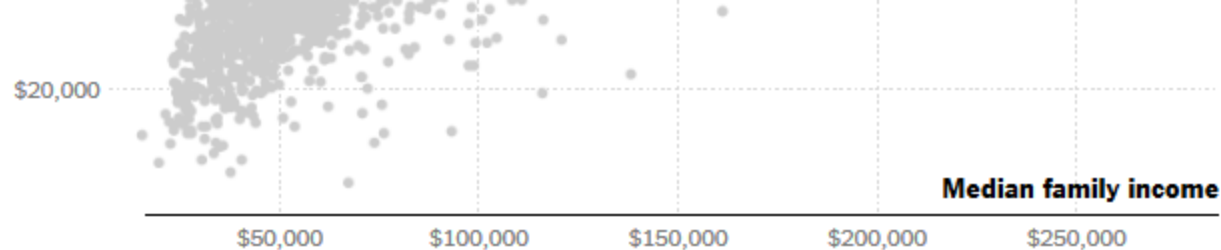
HIGHEST [Colby](#) 61%

LOWEST (NO. 11) [Trinity College \(Conn.\)](#) 48%

Family income vs. student income at age 34

The chart below shows how Williams and its peer schools are comparing with the remaining schools analyzed in the study. You can click on any point in the chart to navigate to that school.

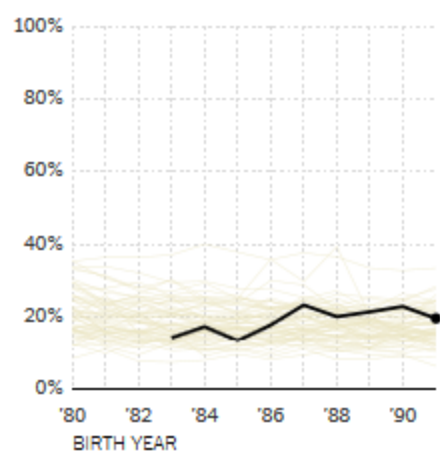




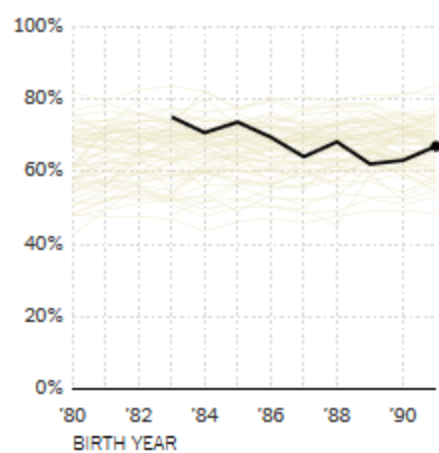
How access at Williams has changed

Peer schools are shown in yellow

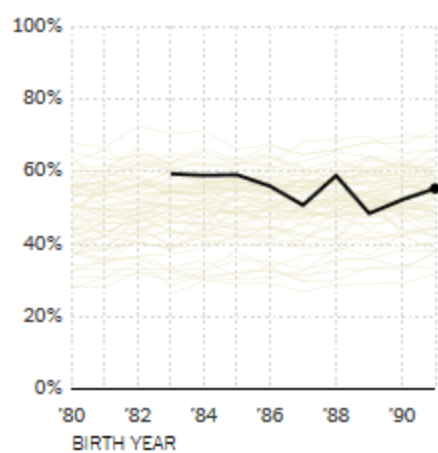
Students from... Bottom 60%



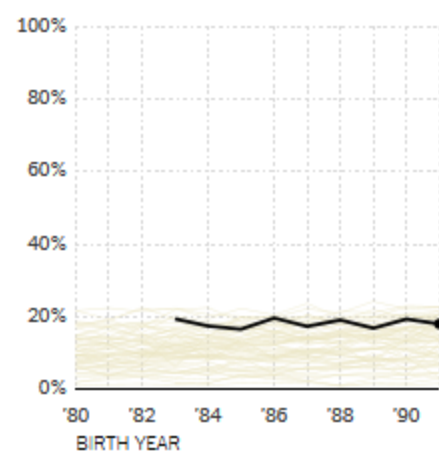
Top 20%



Top 10%



Top 1%



The estimates presented here are based on millions of anonymous tax filings and tuition records. These statistics cover only schools that participate in Title IV federal funding, which excludes the military academies and certain other colleges.

Measures of access are for students born in 1991, roughly the class of 2013; measures of outcomes and mobility are for students born between 1980 and 1982, who are around age 35, when relative income ranks stabilizes.

Class size figures represent the number of students in the study who were born in 1991: approximately the class of 2013 or today's 25-year-olds. This measure does not include international students or students who could not be linked to their parents' tax returns.

The athletic conferences listed here are meant to be a helpful way to compare colleges with their peers. They are incomplete for some conferences. Only one conference is displayed for each college.

Source: "Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility", by Raj Chetty, John Friedman, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner and Danny Yagan, [The Equality of Opportunity Project](#)