



The National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)



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NPSAS Overview



National Postsecondary Student Aid Study

- Legislatively mandated survey of students designed to measure how students and their families pay for college
- Nationally representative
- Primary source of info used to analyze financial aid and inform public policy
- Serves as baseline for two longitudinal studies – Beginning Postsecondary Students (BPS), Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B)

NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys



The Cross-Sectional Foundation:



National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)

Study of student financial aid and demographics

The Longitudinal Complements:



Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS)

Study of persistence and attainment



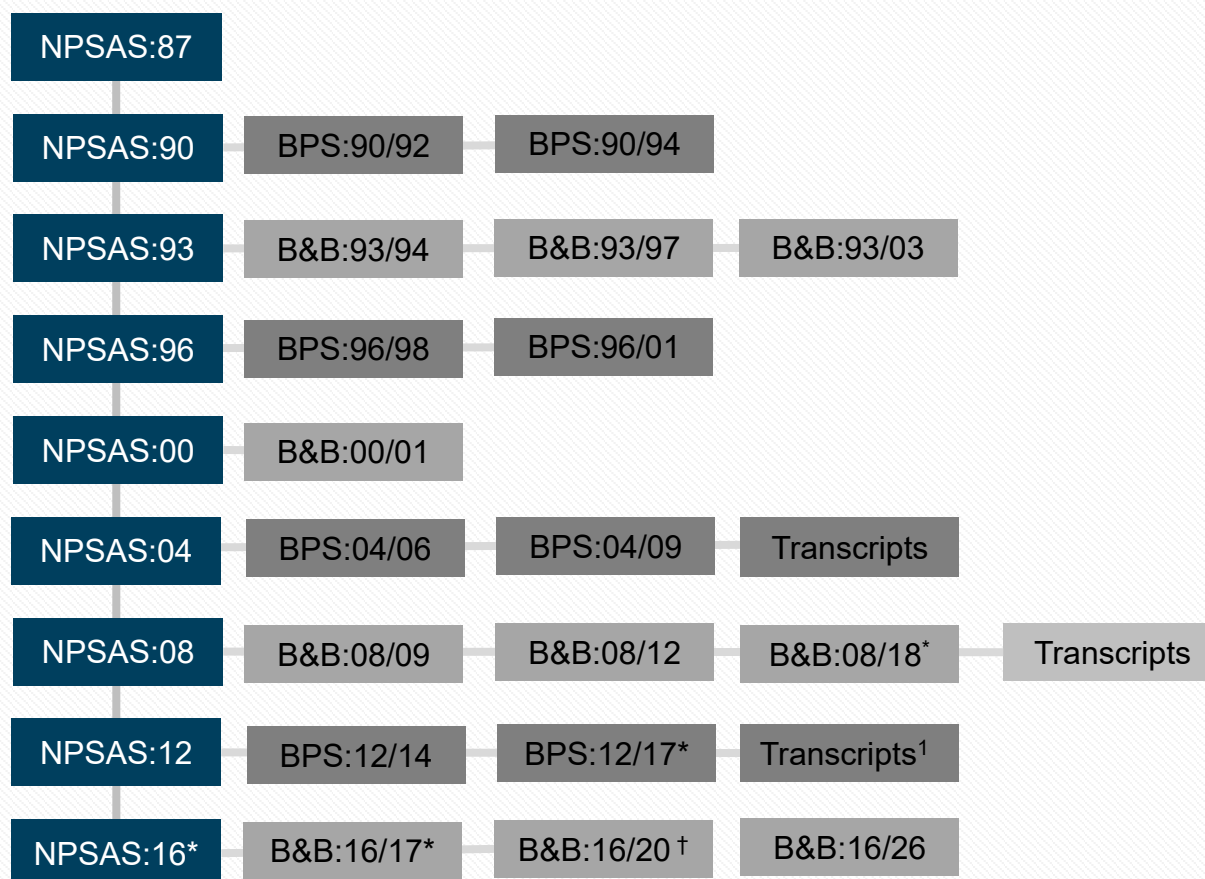
Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B)

Study of workforce outcomes, family formation, and graduate school

History and Timeline



NPSAS and Postsecondary Longitudinal Studies



* In Progress

[†] Budgeted

¹ Includes institutional records

NPSAS Target Population



Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Title IV participating institutions by institution sector

- Students enrolled in all types of institutions;
- Students with and without financial aid; and
- Students in all attendance statuses (e.g., full- and part-time)

NPSAS Advantages



- NPSAS is the only source of nationally representative financial aid data that can be used to examine many subgroups of interest
- NPSAS includes demographic characteristics that allow for nuanced research questions
- Ample sample size to address many research topics at a national level
- Provides detailed data on financial aid programs, the price of college, net price, and related measures

NPSAS Data Sources



Student Interview



Administrative Sources

- Student records from postsecondary institutions
- ED financial aid systems
 - FAFSA Central Processing System / Pell Grant recipient file / NSLDS
- Other external data sources
 - National Student Clearinghouse / Testing companies / VBA

State Representative Estimates in NPSAS: Previous Experiments



NPSAS:04 (*12 States*)

California
Connecticut
Delaware
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Minnesota
Nebraska
New York
Oregon
Tennessee
Texas

NPSAS:08 (*6 States*)

California
Georgia
Illinois
Minnesota
New York
Texas

DATALAB

nces.ed.gov/datalab

Creative Thinking



NCES has explored ideas for creative ways to get state estimates, such as:



States paying for state-representative estimates

Creative Thinking



NCES has explored ideas for creative ways to get state estimates, such as:



Using administrative data exclusively

State Representation Using Administrative Data Sources



No student interview



Larger sample sizes



More institutions would be asked for more student records

NPSAS Takeaways



- NPSAS itself is mandated to be conducted, but participation is **voluntary**
- NPSAS data have great **value** and can have a significant effect on **policy**
- State-representative estimates: **important** but getting there presents unique **challenges**
- States can be our **partners** in these efforts

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<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/portal>