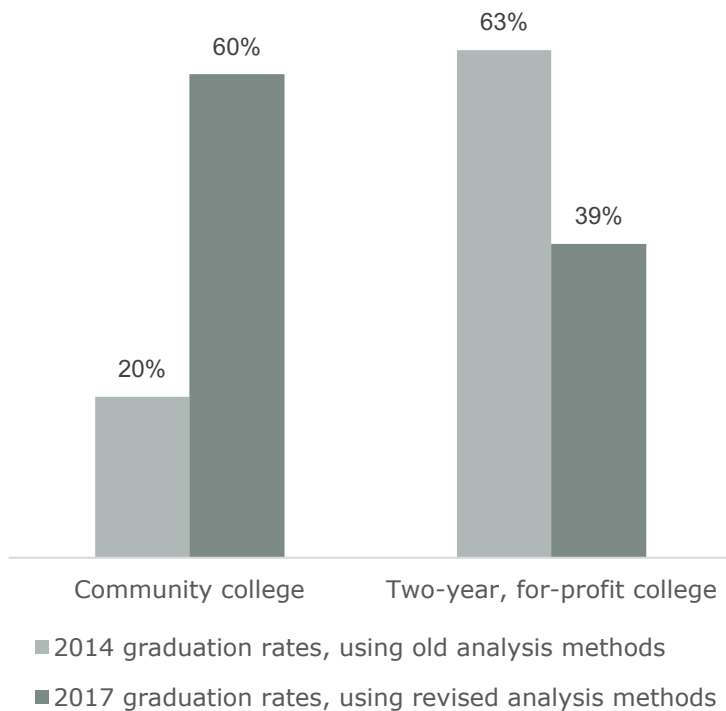


# New data suggests community colleges have higher graduation rates than previously thought

## Percentage of students who graduate two-year college programs within eight years

Committee on Measures of Student Success (Department of Education)



Number of students reflected in graduation rate data  
2008: **620,000** → 2017: **1.5 million**

### Key takeaways

- Previously, graduation rates were measured **based on techniques from the 1980s**; these measurements suggested that community college graduation rates averaged 20% after six years
- New data, however, **extends the graduation time frame to eight years** and incorporates students who transfer, often from two-year to four-year degree programs
- The new data suggests that **community colleges have substantially higher graduation rates** than previously thought: including transfers, the rate increases to 60% from 20%
- Meanwhile, the graduation rates of two-year, for-profit college programs **has fallen from 63% to 39%**, in part, analysts believe, because students at these schools don't often transfer

Sources: Kevin Carey, "Revised Data Shows Community Colleges Have Been Underappreciated," Oct. 31, 2017; National Center for Education Statistics, College Navigator, 2017.