The far-reaching implications of student loan debt

RISING STUDENT DEBT
Families with student loan debt have more than doubled over 25 years.

By age of the head of family
- Emerging families <35 years old
  - 45% (In 2016: 22%)
  - 24% (In 1992: 11%)
- Established families 45-54 years old
  - 24% (In 2016: 24%)
  - 6% (In 1992: 6%)
- Nearing retirement families 55-64 years old
  - 13% (In 2016: 3%)

IMPACTED ASSETS
Families with student loans are less likely to own a home and have less saved for retirement.

Those with student loans who did not finish college end up with the costs but not the benefits of a degree.

Home ownership
- College degree
  - Emerging families <35 years old: 45%
  - Established families 45-54 years old: 76%
  - Nearing retirement families 55-64 years old: 85%
- Some college
  - Emerging families <35 years old: 26%
  - Established families 45-54 years old: 48%
  - Nearing retirement families 55-64 years old: 71%
- No student loan
  - Emerging families <35 years old: 27%
  - Established families 45-54 years old: 48%
  - Nearing retirement families 55-64 years old: 71%

By generation and education level
- Emerging families <35 years old
  - College degree: $33k
  - Some college: $17k
  - No student loan: $151k
- Established families 45-54 years old
  - College degree: $54k
  - Some college: $21k
  - No student loan: $106k

RETIRED RISK
Older families taking on student debt for their children, may be less able to save as they near retirement.

Median defined contribution balance
- Nearing retirement 55-64 years old
  - Student loan for adult: $48k
  - Student loan for child: $90k
  - No student loan: $40k

Craig Copeland. “Student Loan Debt: Trends and Implications.” EBRI Issue Brief, no. 453 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, July 9, 2018).