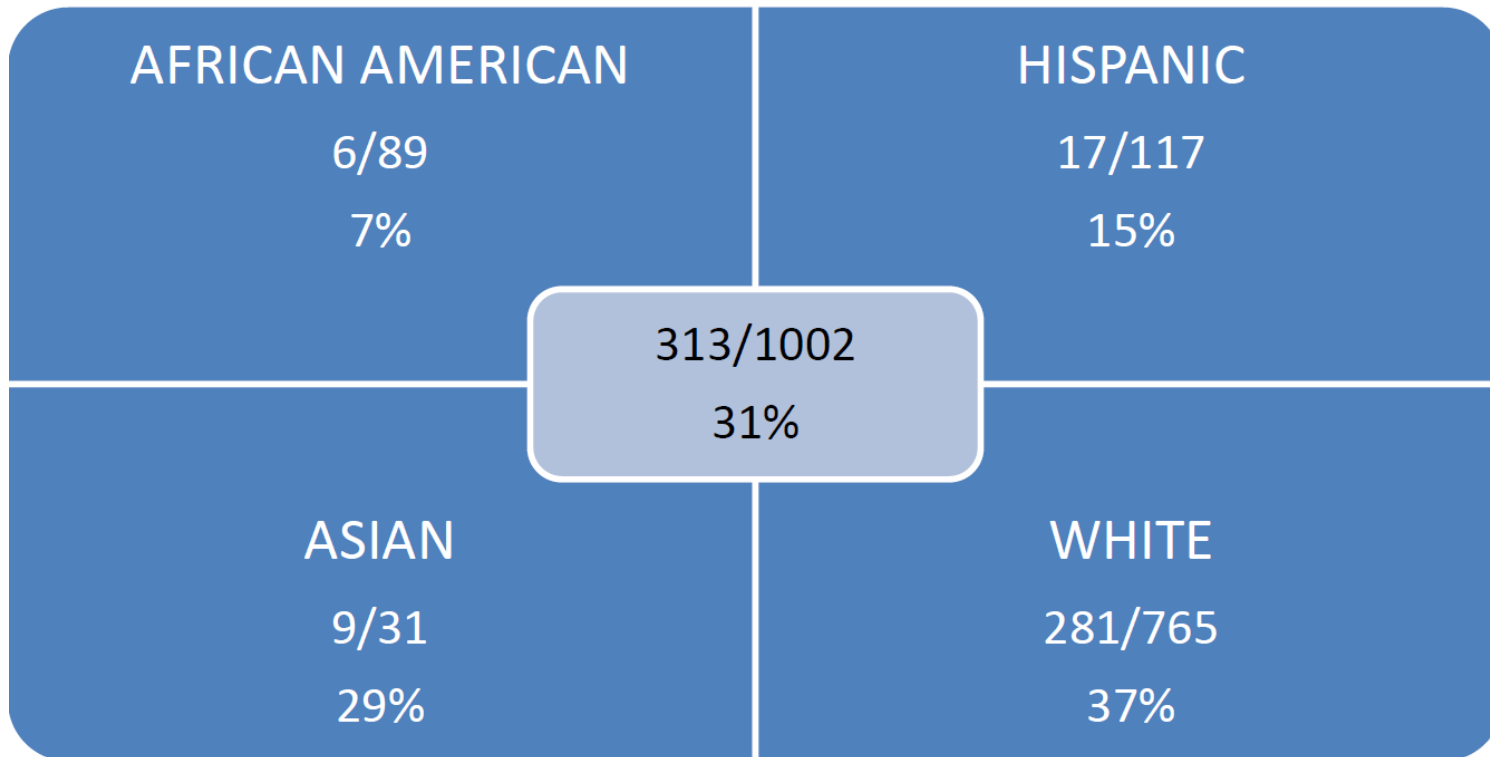# Comparison of Illinois Basic Skills test results and ACT scores

The Illinois Education Research Council
IACTE, October 28, 2011

Most recent BST results (September 2011)

Passed all four subtests

AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC
6/89	17/117
7%	15%

313/1002
31%

ASIAN	WHITE
9/31	281/765
29%	37%

First, a couple of notes about our analysis:
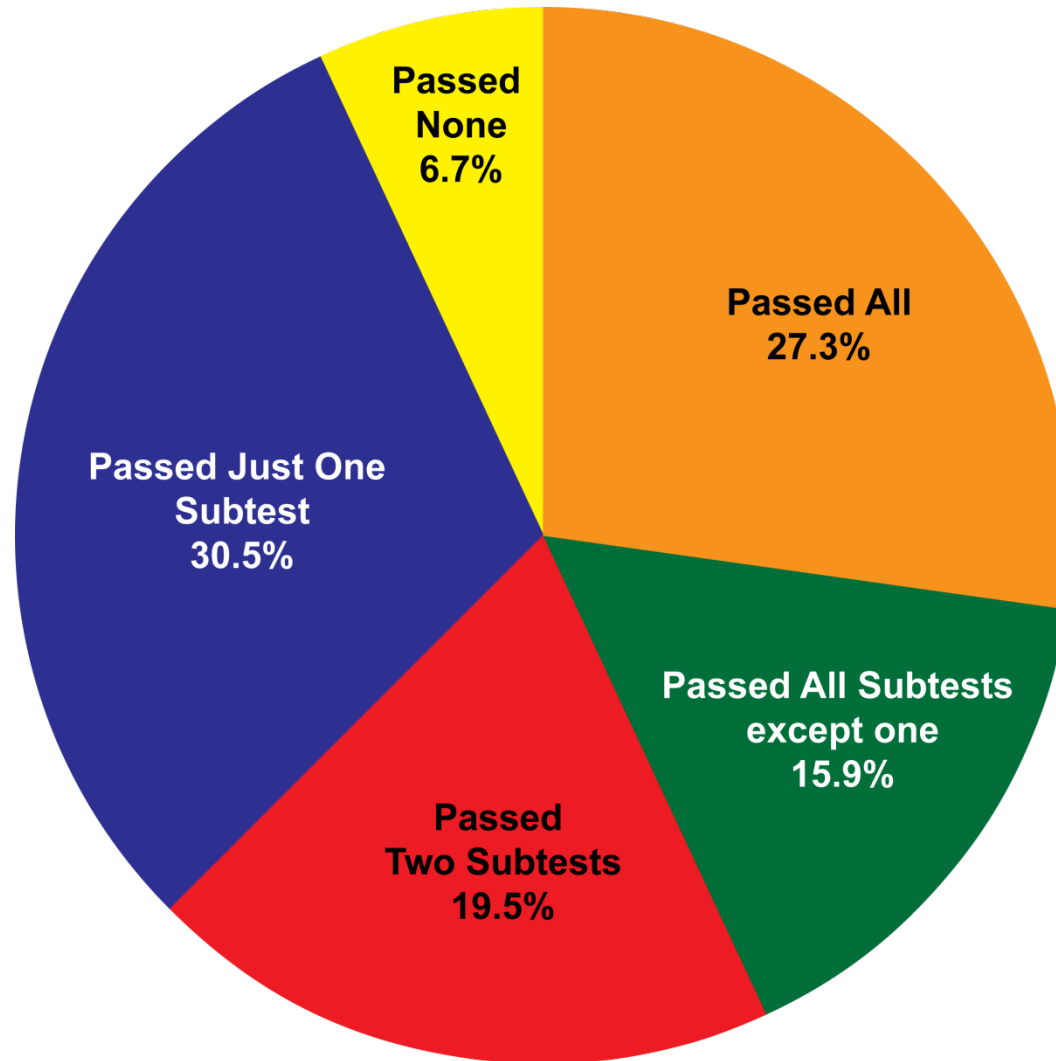
1. **This is a limited sample:**
   a. Just those who took the BST Sept-Dec, 2010 (N= 5,310), and
   b. For whom we could obtain ACT data (N=3,203 or 60%)
   c. Will follow up with analysis of full year's worth of data soon

2. **I'm just the messenger.**
   a. Analysis is intended to be descriptive, not prescriptive

Summary of initial BST results: Number of subtests passed

Passed None
6.7%

Passed All
27.3%

Passed All Subtests except one
15.9%

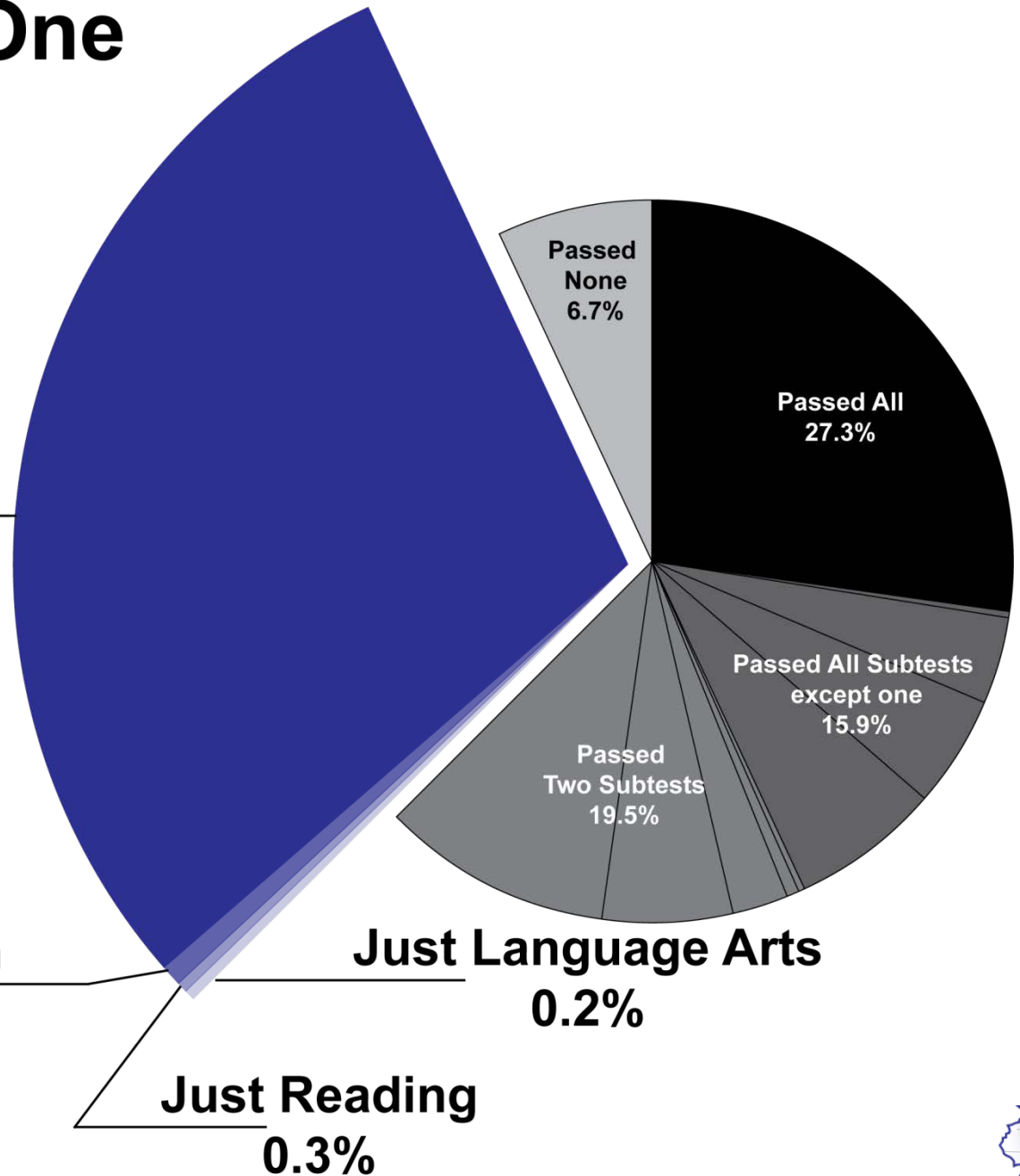Passed Two Subtests
19.5%

Passed Just One Subtest
30.5%

Passed Just One Subtest 30.5%

Just Writing 29.4%

Just Math 0.5%

Just Reading 0.3%

Just Language Arts 0.2%

Passed None 6.7%

Passed All 27.3%

Passed All Subtests except one 15.9%

Passed Two Subtests 19.5%

Passed Two Subtests 19.5%

Passed None 6.7%

Passed All 27.3%

Passed Just One Subtest 30.5%

Passed All Subtests except one 15.9%

Language Arts + Math <0.1%

Reading + Language Arts 0.3%

Reading + Math 0.3%

Language Arts + Writing 2.7%

Math + Writing 10.5%

Reading + Writing 5.7%

Passed All Subtests except one 15.9%

Passed None
6.7%

Passed All
27.3%

Passed Just One Subtest
30.5%

Passed Two Subtests
19.5%

All but Writing
0.3%

All but Math
4.0%

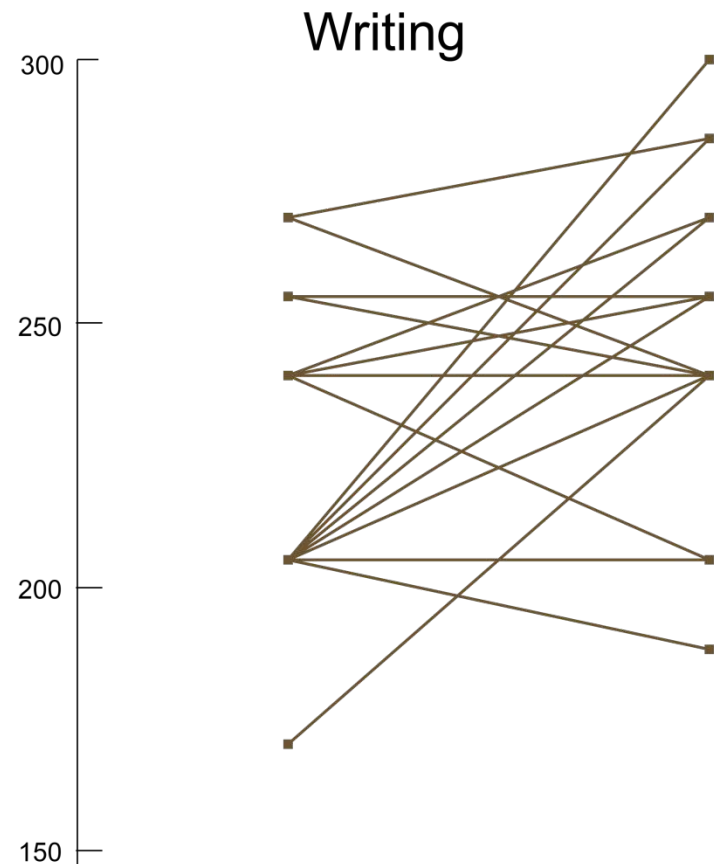All but Reading
5.0%

All but Language Arts
6.7%

Do BST scores improve on subsequent attempts?

Reading

Writing

Average Change = +14.9

% improving = 63.0%

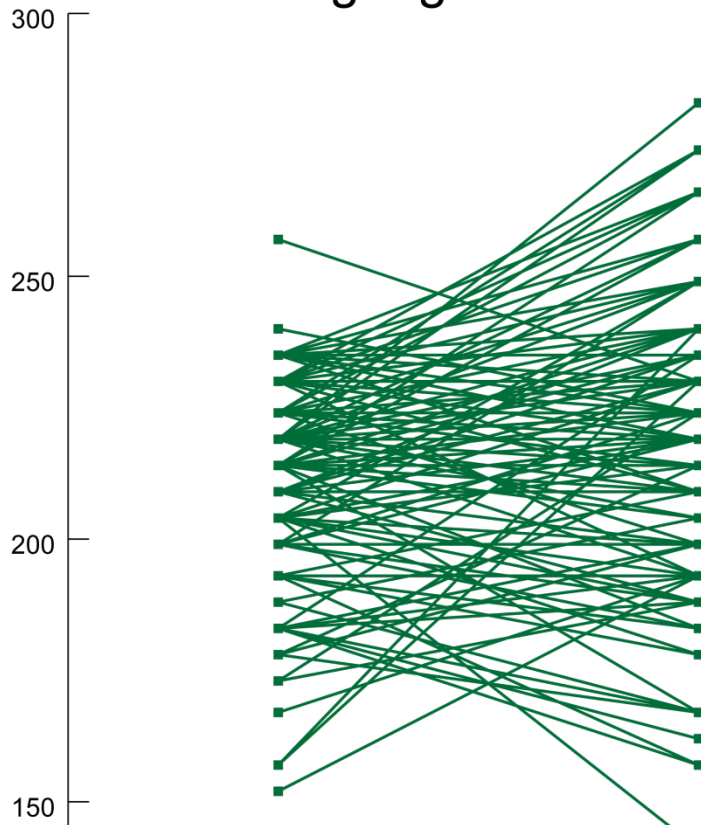% passing on 2nd attempt = 27.4%

Average Change = +28.3

% improving = 68.6%

% passing on 2nd attempt = 82.9%

Do BST scores improve on subsequent attempts?

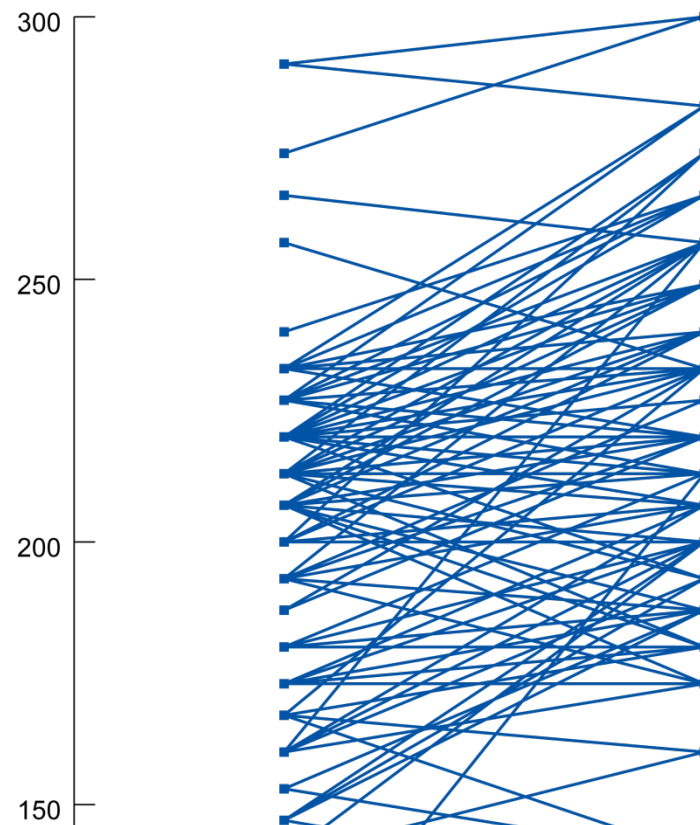Language Arts — Average Change = +9.7
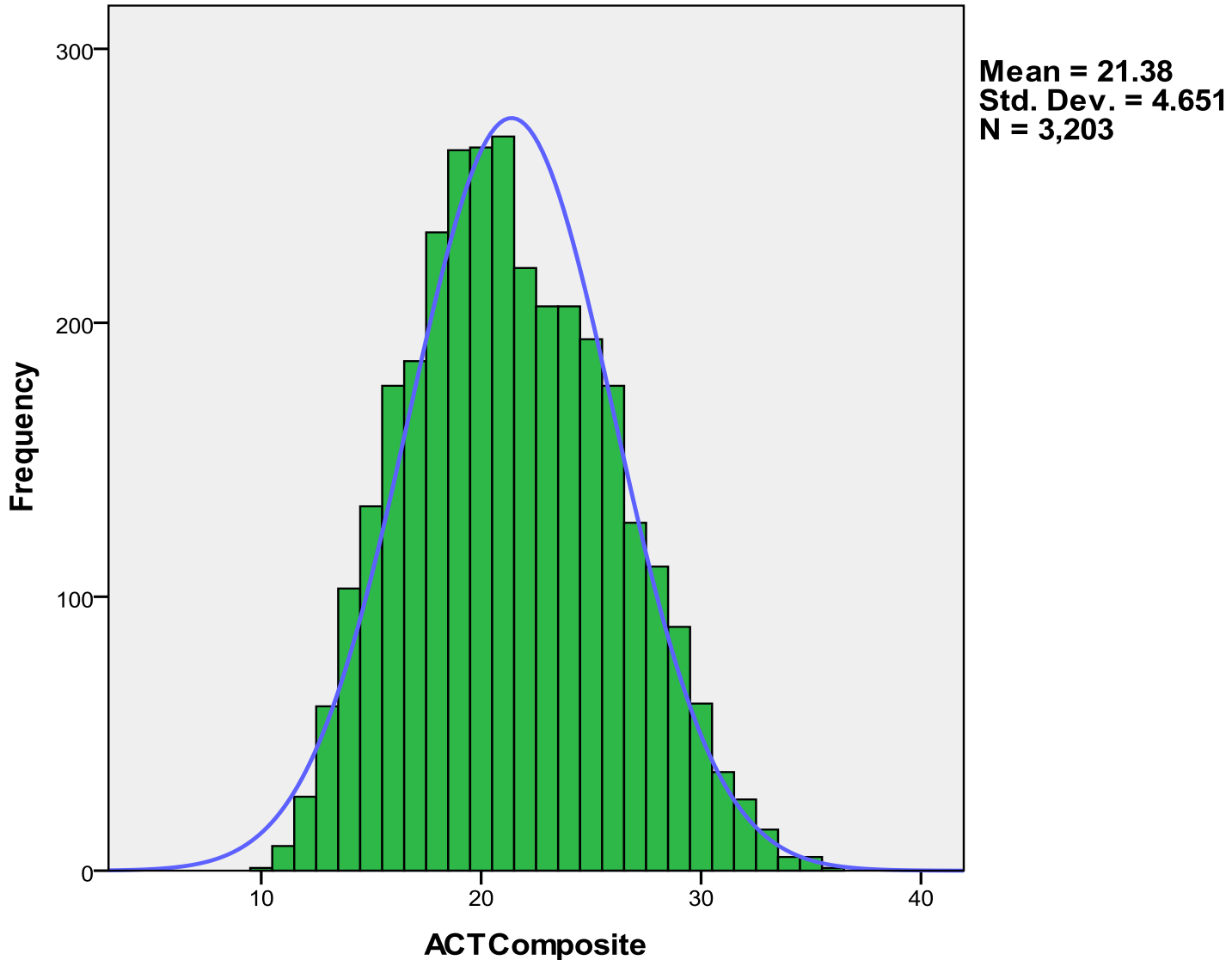% improving = 53.3%
% passing on 2nd attempt = 24.7%
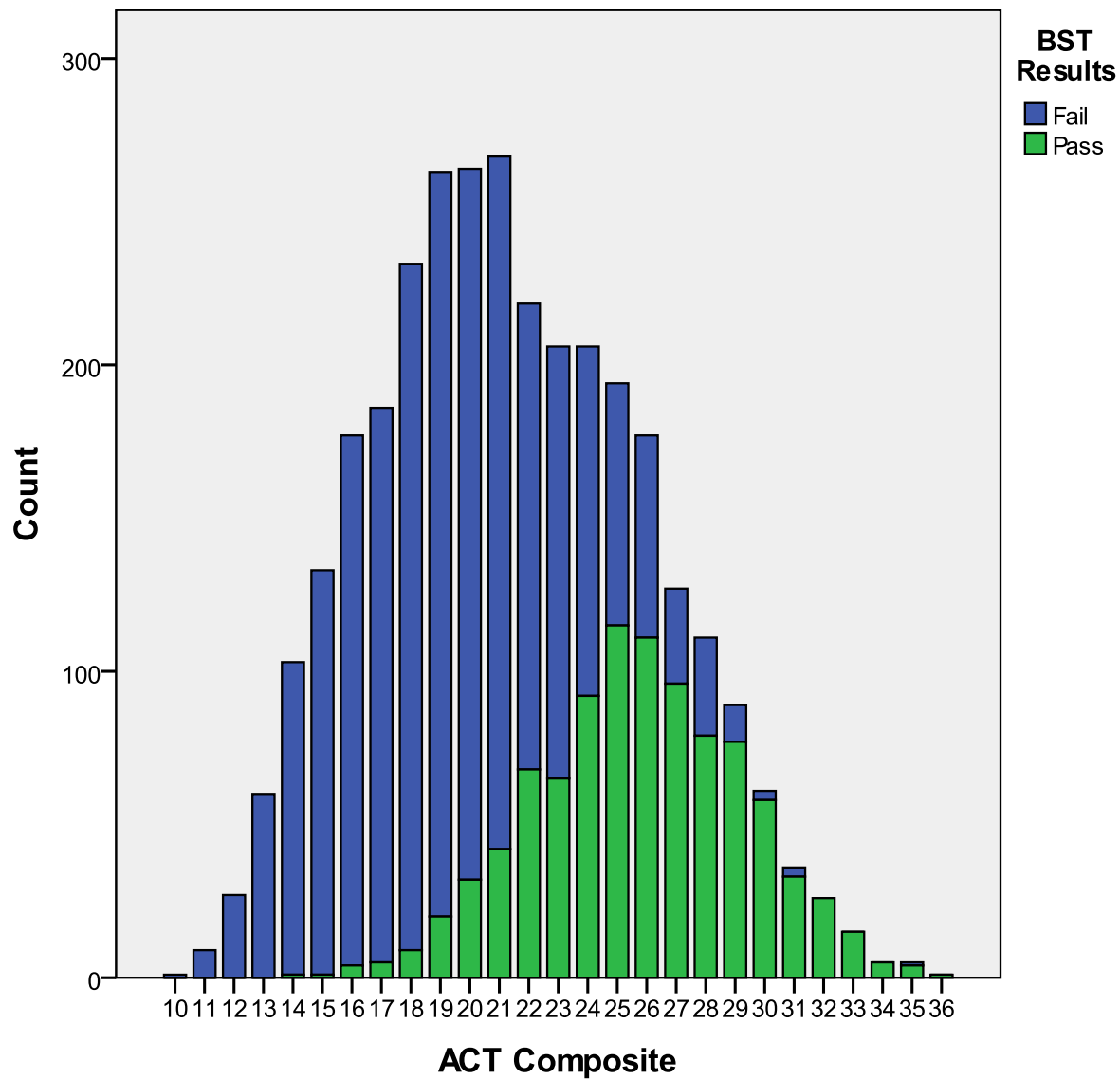
Math — Average Change = +21.5
% improving = 70.1%
% passing on 2nd attempt = 36.2%

The relationship between BST results & ACT scores

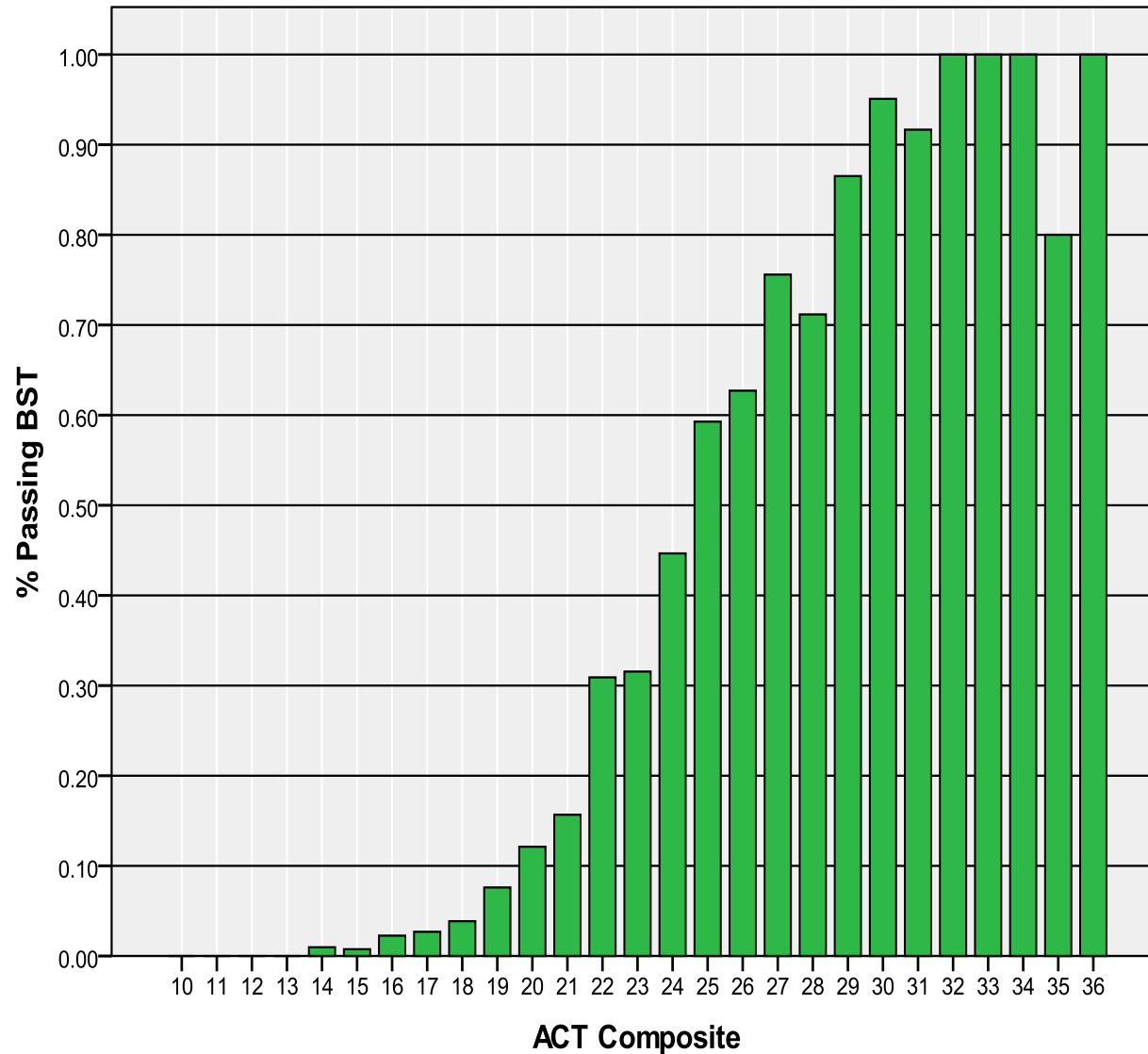# Distribution of ACT composite scores for our sample

Mean = 21.38
Std. Dev. = 4.651
N = 3,203

Distribution of BST results by ACT composite score

Proportion passing BST by ACT composite score

# Average ACT composite and subscale scores by BST status

	All BST Takers	Did not pass BST	Passed BST*
ACT Composite	21.38	19.52	25.73
ACT English	21.45	19.34	26.41
ACT Math	20.95	19.18	25.11
ACT Reading	21.65	19.56	26.54
ACT Writing	22.64	21.06	26.75
N (%)	*3203 (100%)*	*2244 (70%)*	*959 (30%)*

* Including those who passed after multiple attempts

Comparison of ACT composite scores for selected groups
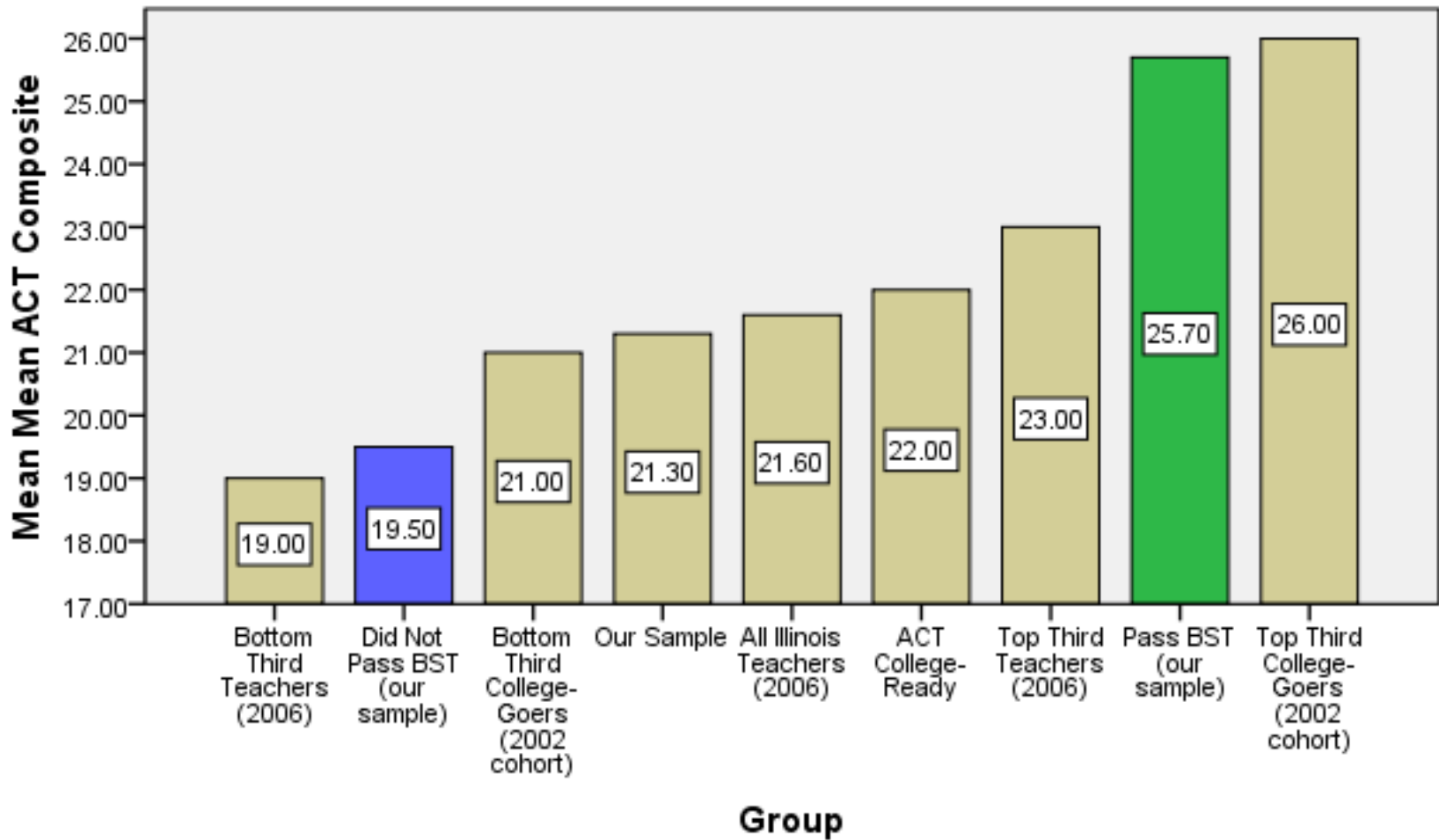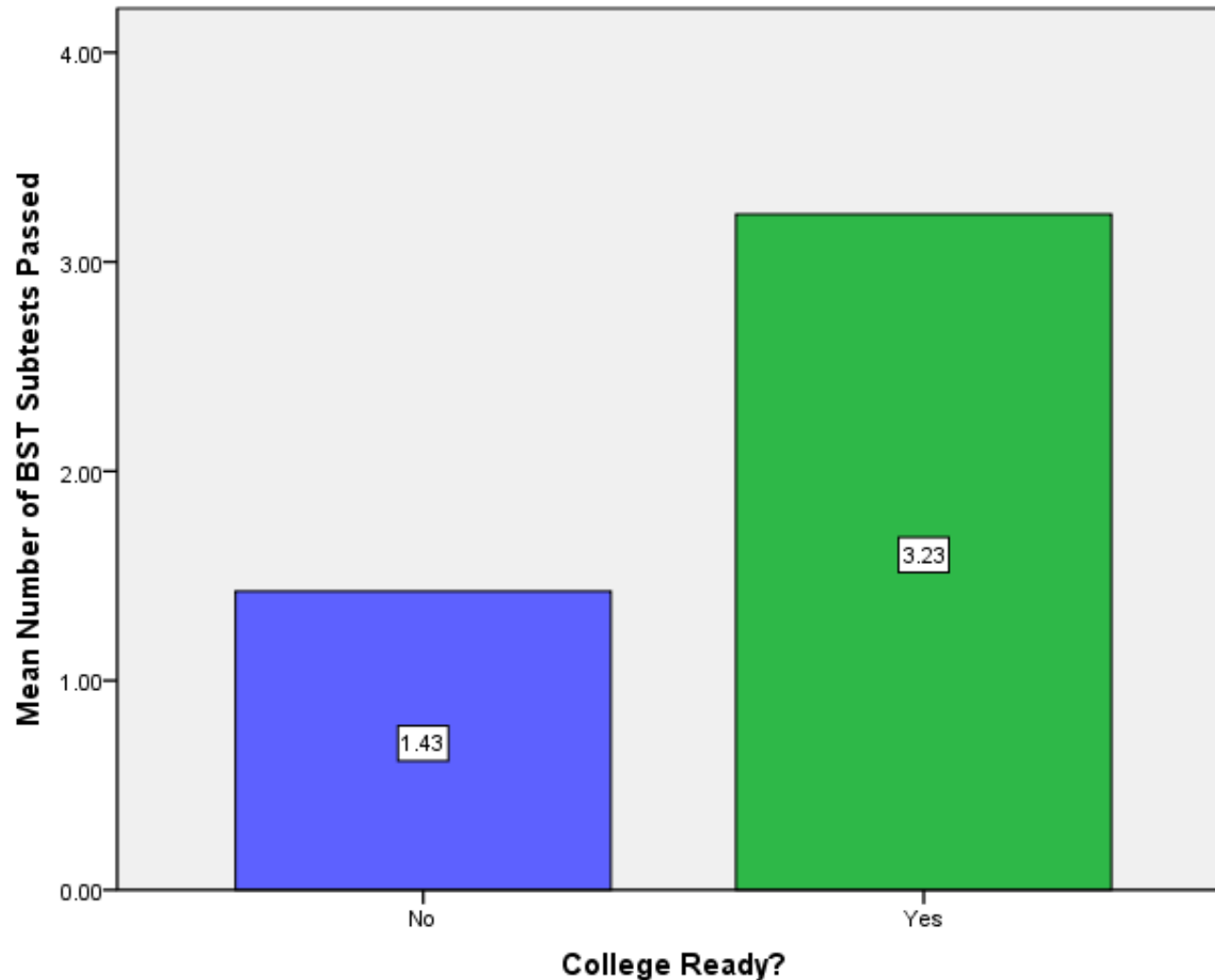
Proportion passing each BST subtest by ACT college readiness status
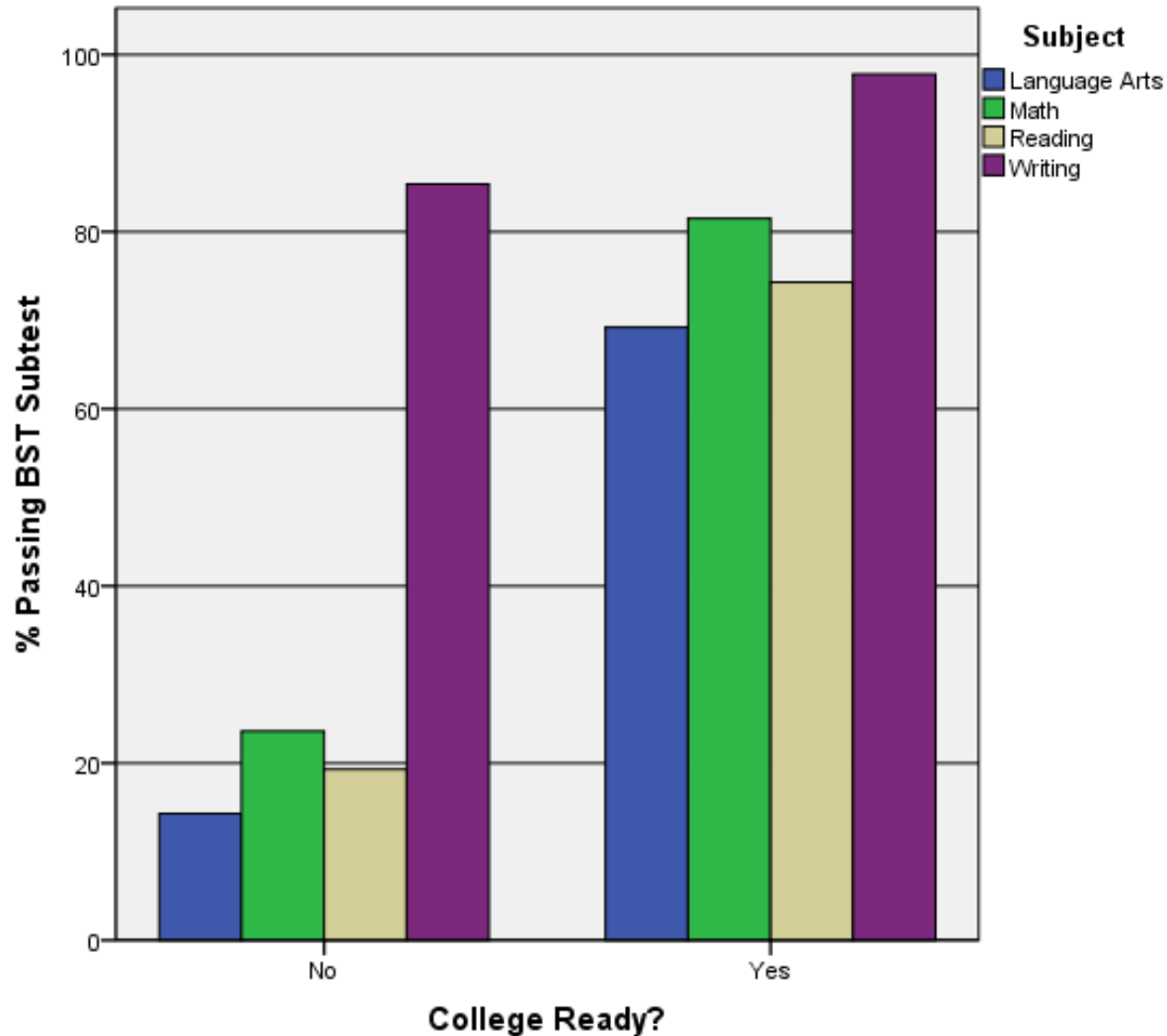
Average number of BST subtests passed by ACT college readiness status
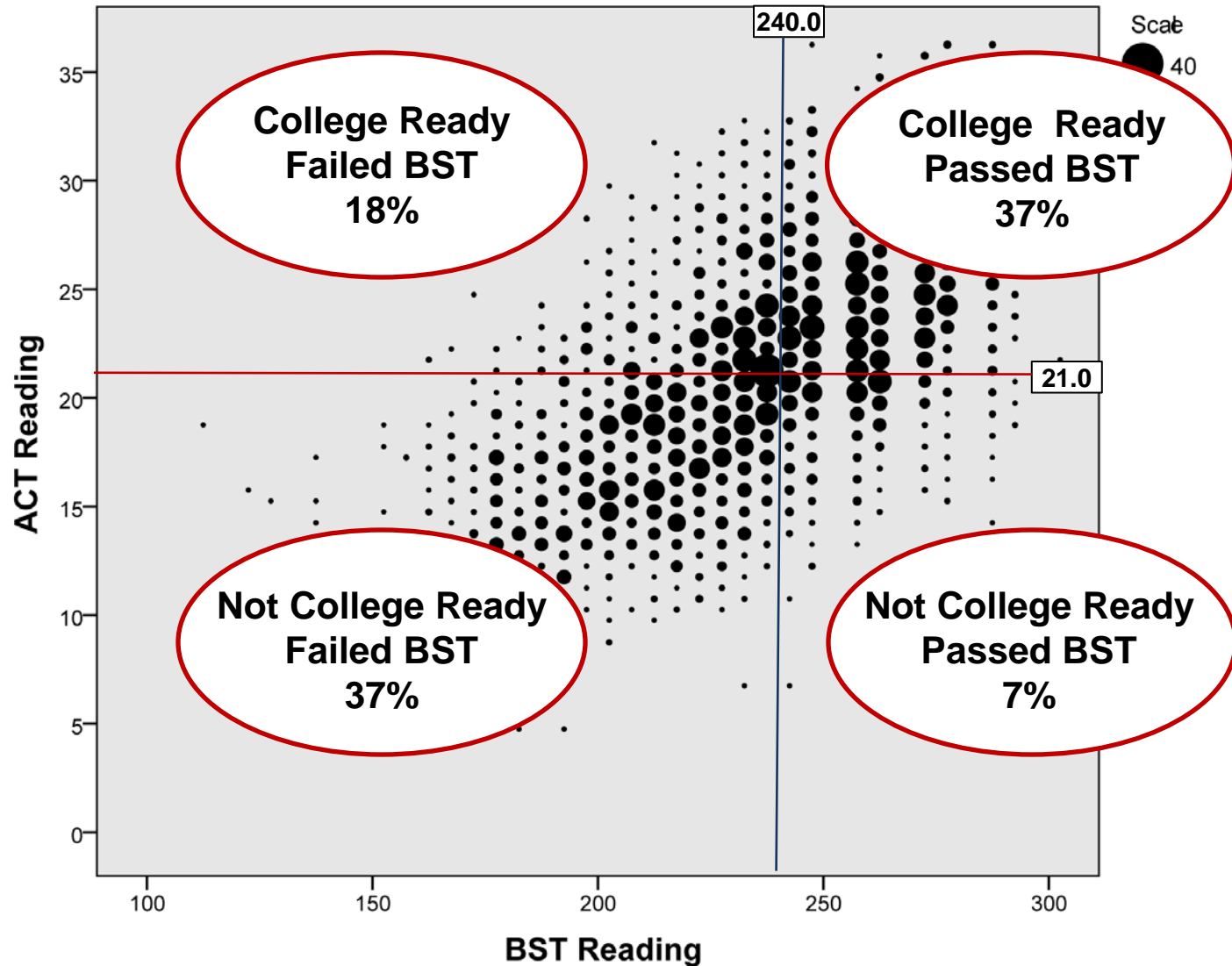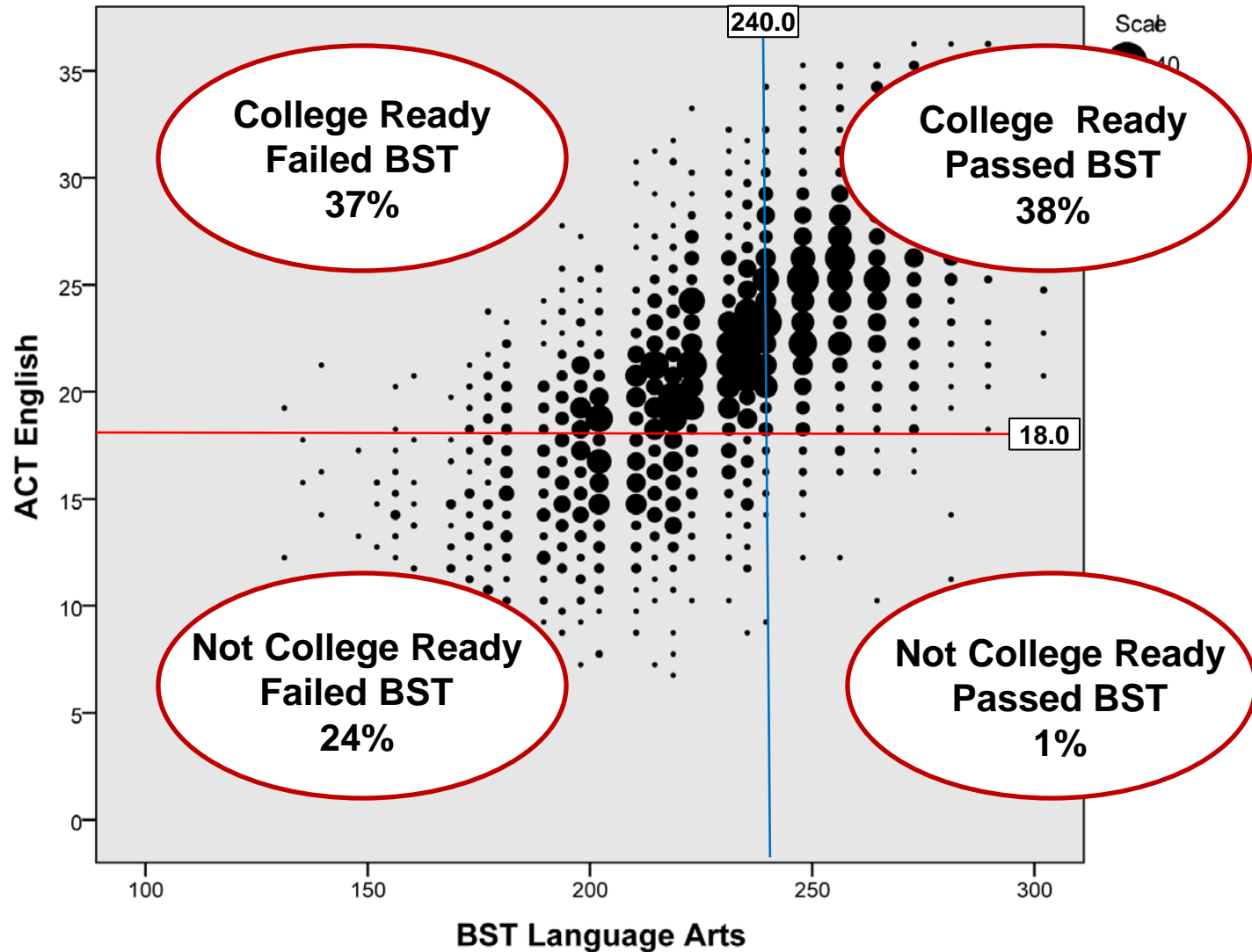
ACT score x BST score correlation matrix

	BST reading	BST language arts	BST math	BST writing
ACT Composite	.675**	.705**	.738**	.481**
ACT English	.648**	.702**	.645**	.487**
ACT Math	.538**	.574**	.770**	.389**
ACT Reading	.649**	.646**	.573**	.442**
ACT Writing	.655**	.692**	.589**	.469**

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed).
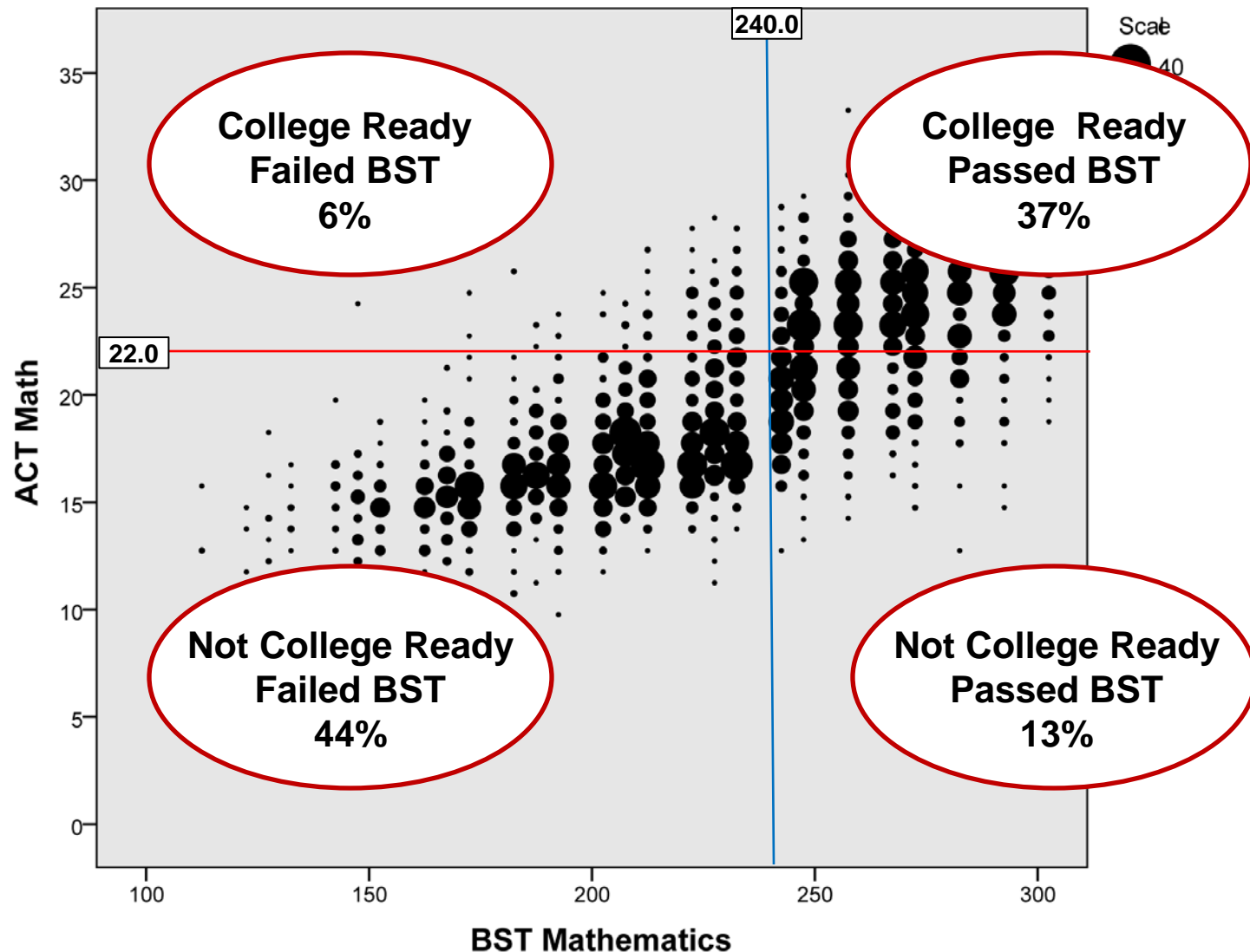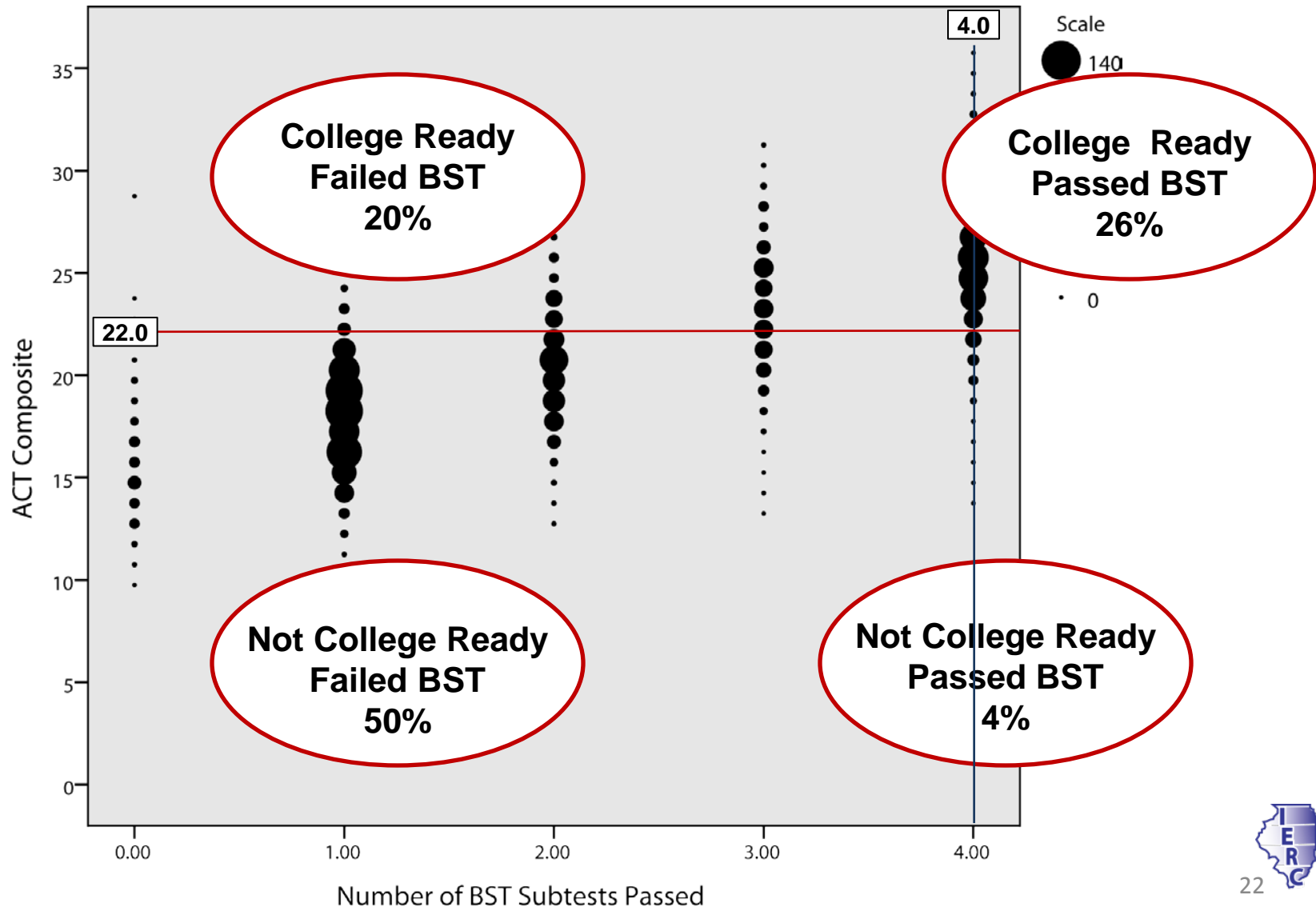
ACT Reading by BST Reading

ACT English by BST Language Arts

ACT Math by BST Math

ACT composite by number of BST subtests passed

Questions or comments?

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