

# **A Longitudinal Study of the Illinois High School Class of 2002: A Six-Year Analysis of Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion**

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# The Study

- Who is included in the cohort
  - 113,135 public high school students who took the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE)/ACT in the Spring of 2001 and indicated that they would be graduating in 2002.
- Who is not included in this cohort
  - Private high school graduates from Illinois
  - Out-of-State high school graduates who emigrated to Illinois higher education institutions

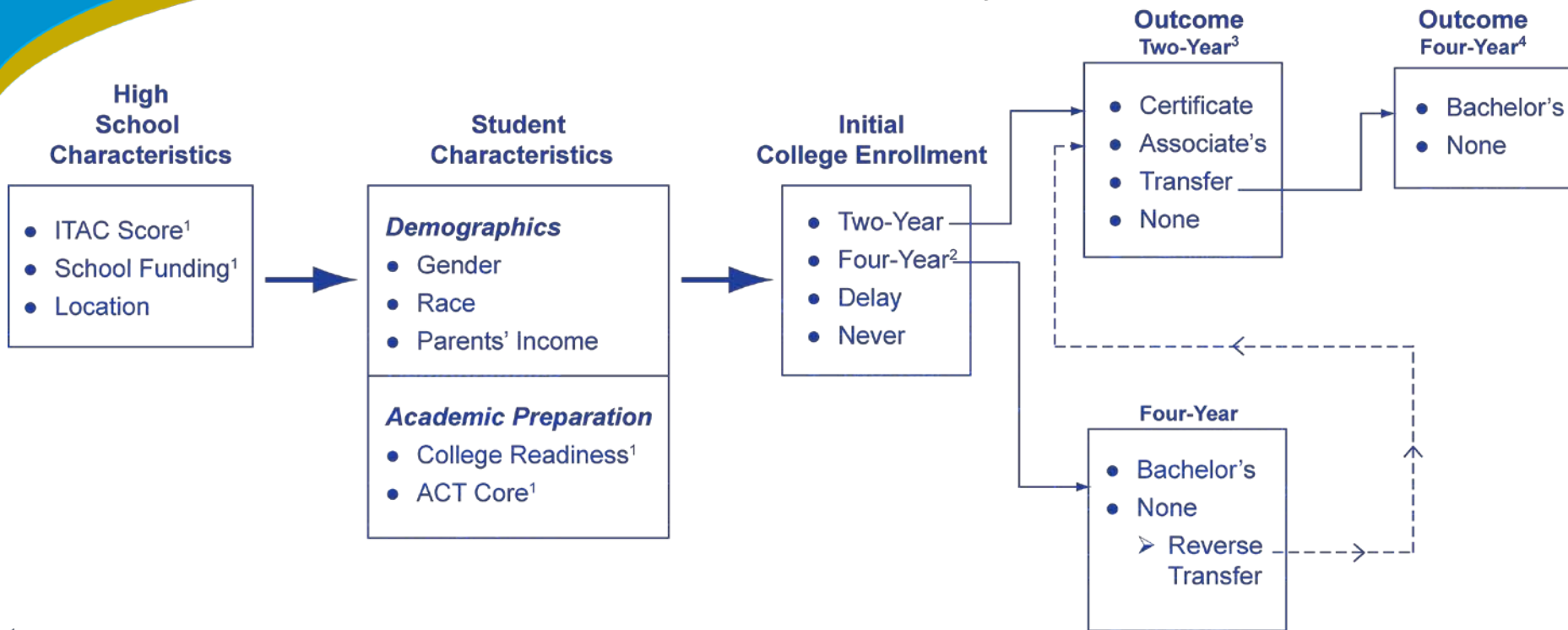
# Sources of Data

- **ACT-ACT** scores and information from the Student Interest Profiler
- **National Student Clearinghouse**-enrollment and degrees
- **Illinois Community College Board**-enrollment and degrees
- **Illinois Shared Enrollment and Graduation Consortium**-enrollment and degrees
- **Illinois School Report Card**- characteristics of the high schools
- **IPEDS**-characteristics of the four-year institutions
- **Barron's**-selectivity

# Context of the Study

- Graduation initiatives: President Obama, Lumina Foundation, Complete College America
- Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success
  - Increase the number of quality degrees
  - Reduce geographic disparities in educational attainment
  - Ensure college affordability for individuals, families, and taxpayers
  - Improve transitions along the educational pipeline—the postsecondary portion
- Several current studies that are focusing on postsecondary completion rather than only access (Bowen).

# Framework of Study



<sup>1</sup> Potentially malleable

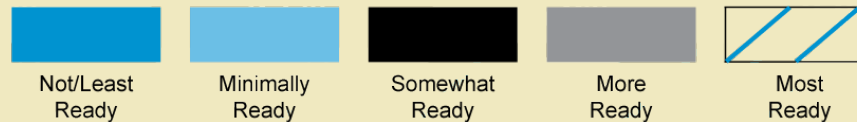
<sup>2</sup> By sector and selectivity

<sup>3</sup> Two-year outcomes are not mutually exclusive, so more than one could occur

<sup>4</sup> For two-year to four-year transfers

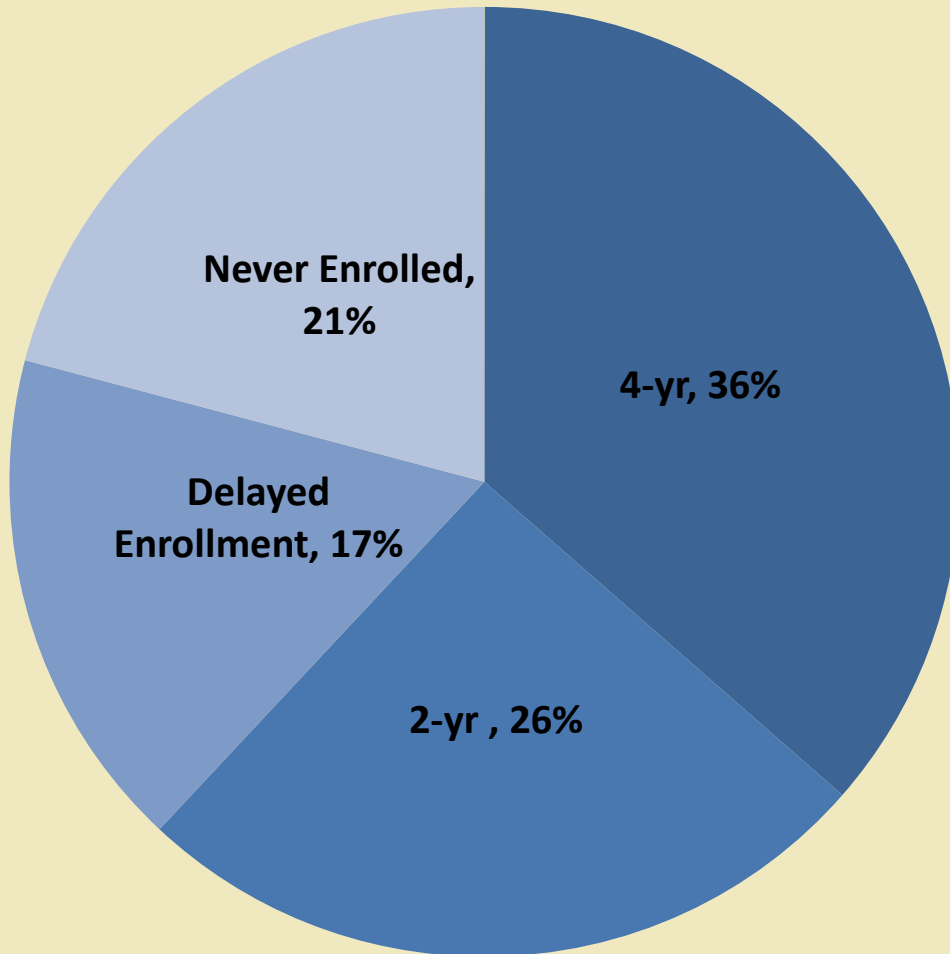
# IERC College Readiness Index

ACT	High School GPA (self-reported)				
	<= 2.4	2.5 - 2.9	3.0 - 3.4	3.5 - 4.0	Missing
<20	19.7%	8.0%	6.5%	1.9%	14.6%
20-22	3.1%	3.5%	5.2%	2.9%	4.0%
23-25	1.1%	1.7%	4.2%	4.8%	2.7%
26+	0.4%	0.8%	2.7%	9.5%	2.8%



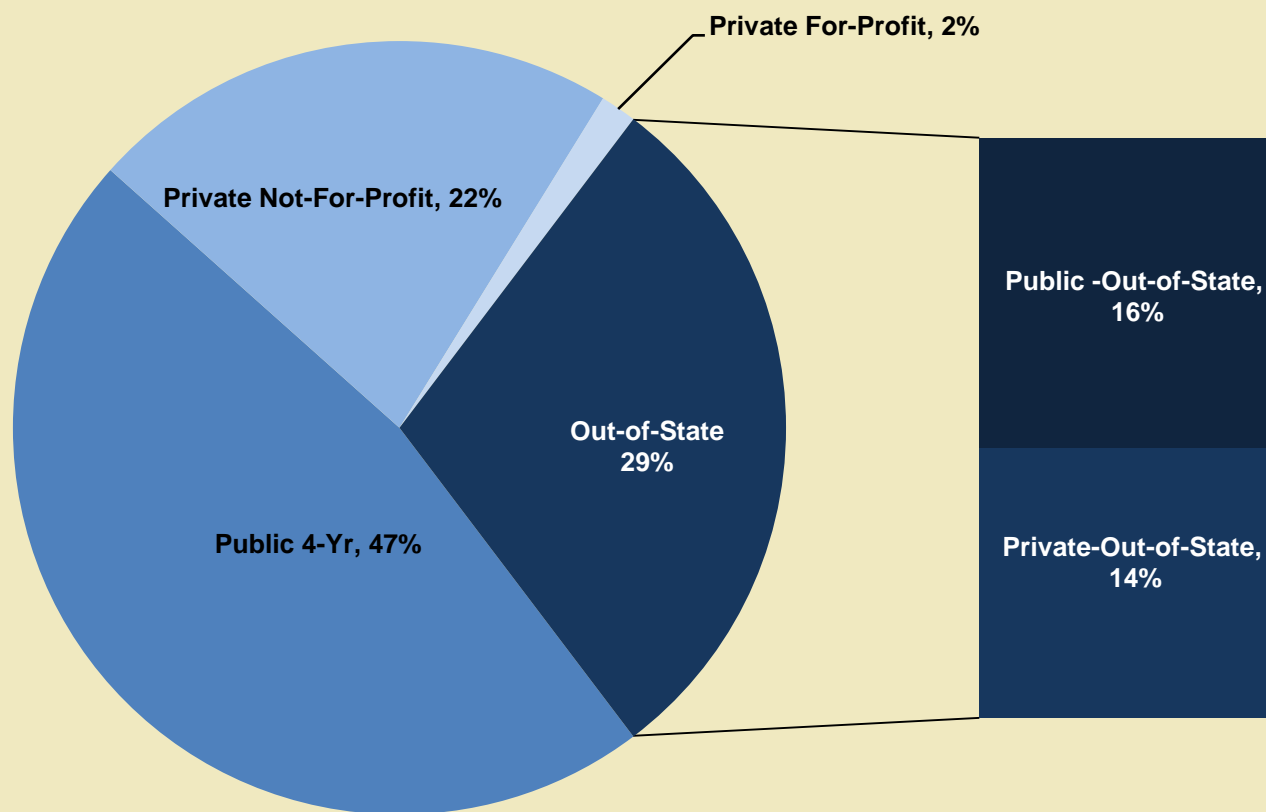
- Index created by combining ACT and HS GPA.

## Basic College Enrollment



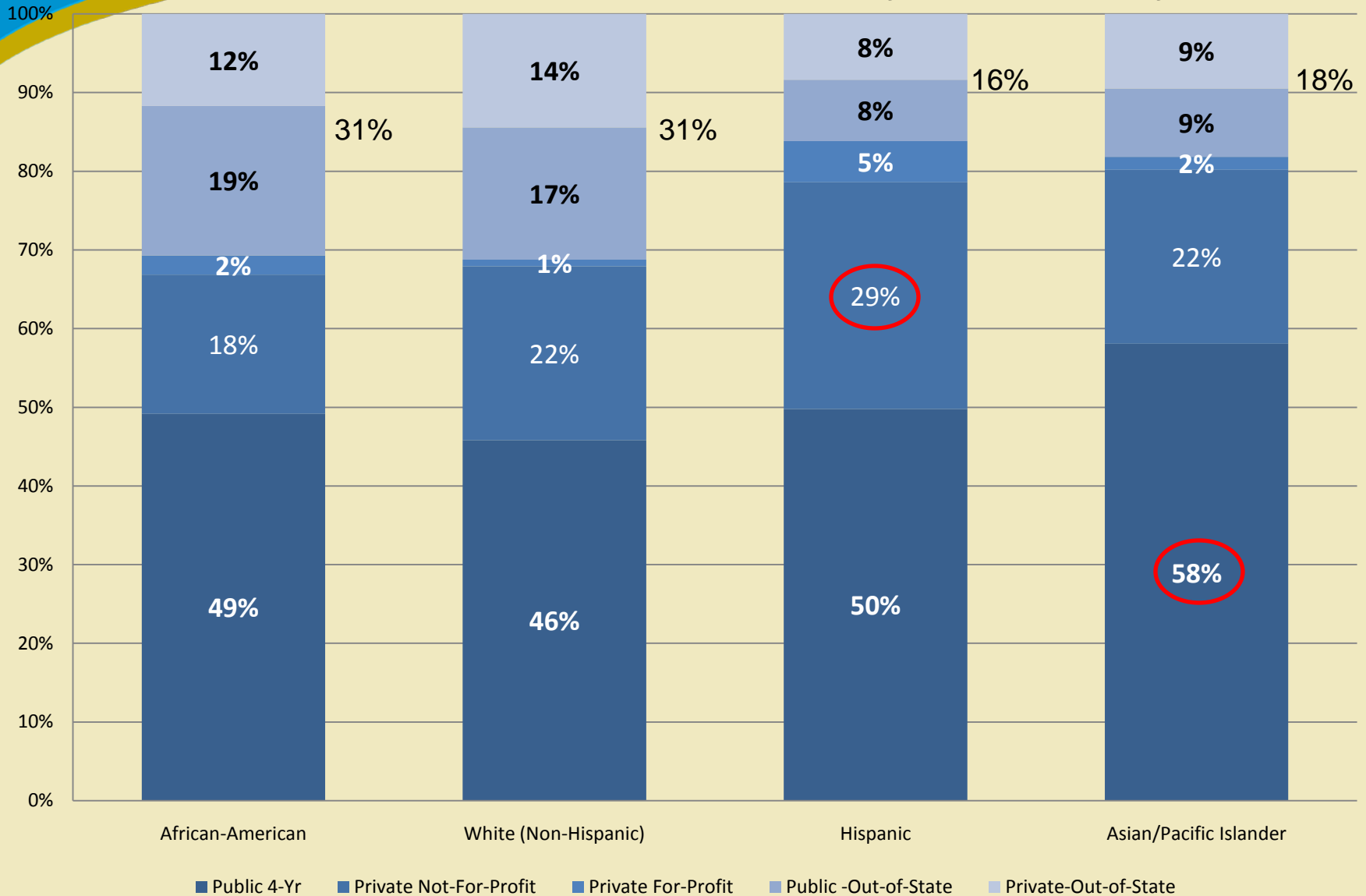
- **62%** Enrolled the initial fall semester.
- **17%** delayed enrollment at a either a 2 or four yr. institution after fall 2002.
- **21%** never enrolled in higher education over the six-year study period.

# Sector of Four-Year Starters

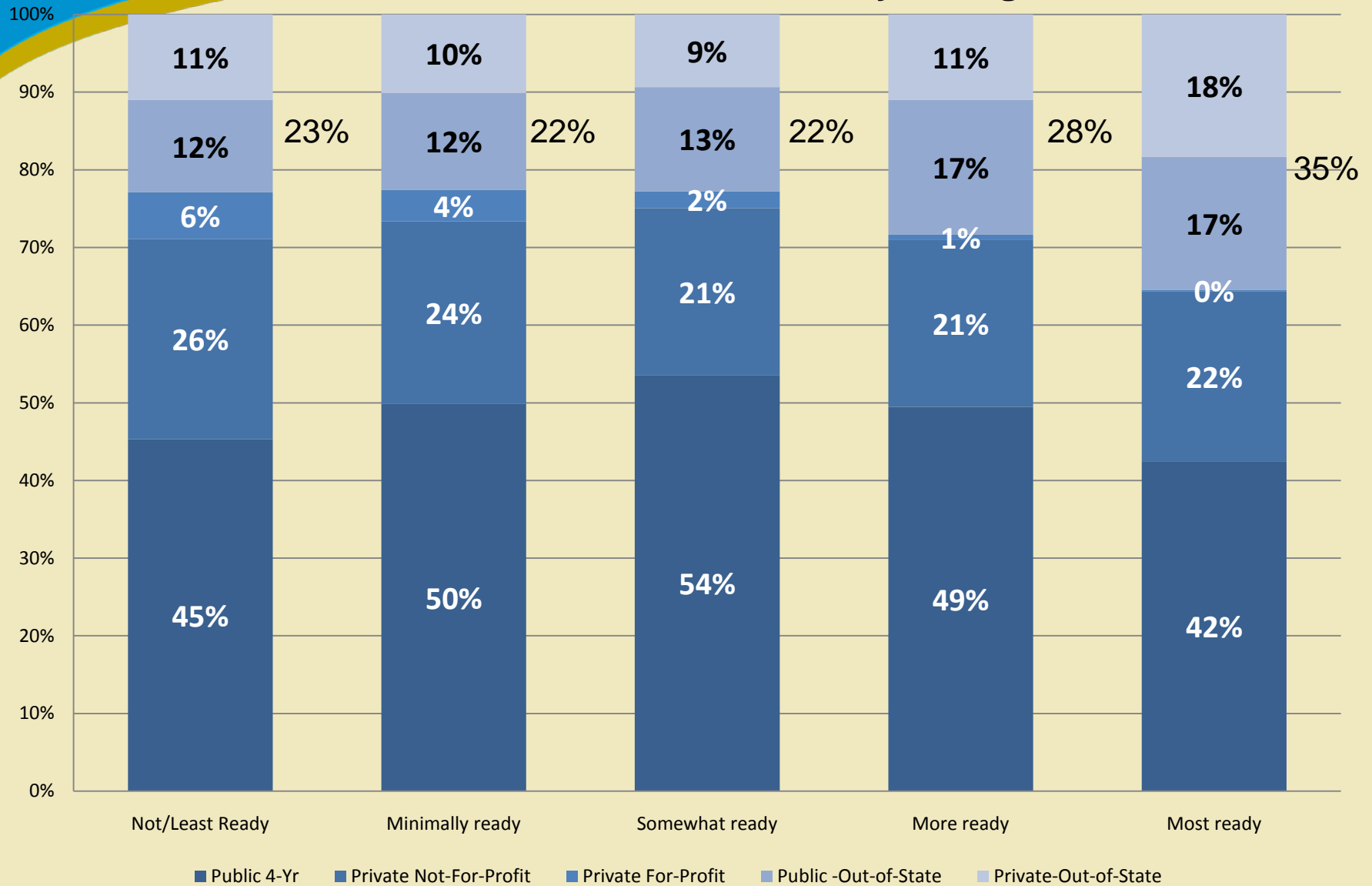


- A little less than half attend Public Universities
- Around a quarter attend in state privates.
- 38% attend privates overall.
- Nearly a third attend out of state.
- More than half of students who go out of state attend public institutions.
- Illinois ranks 51<sup>st</sup> for Net Migration of College Freshman (PEO April 2010)

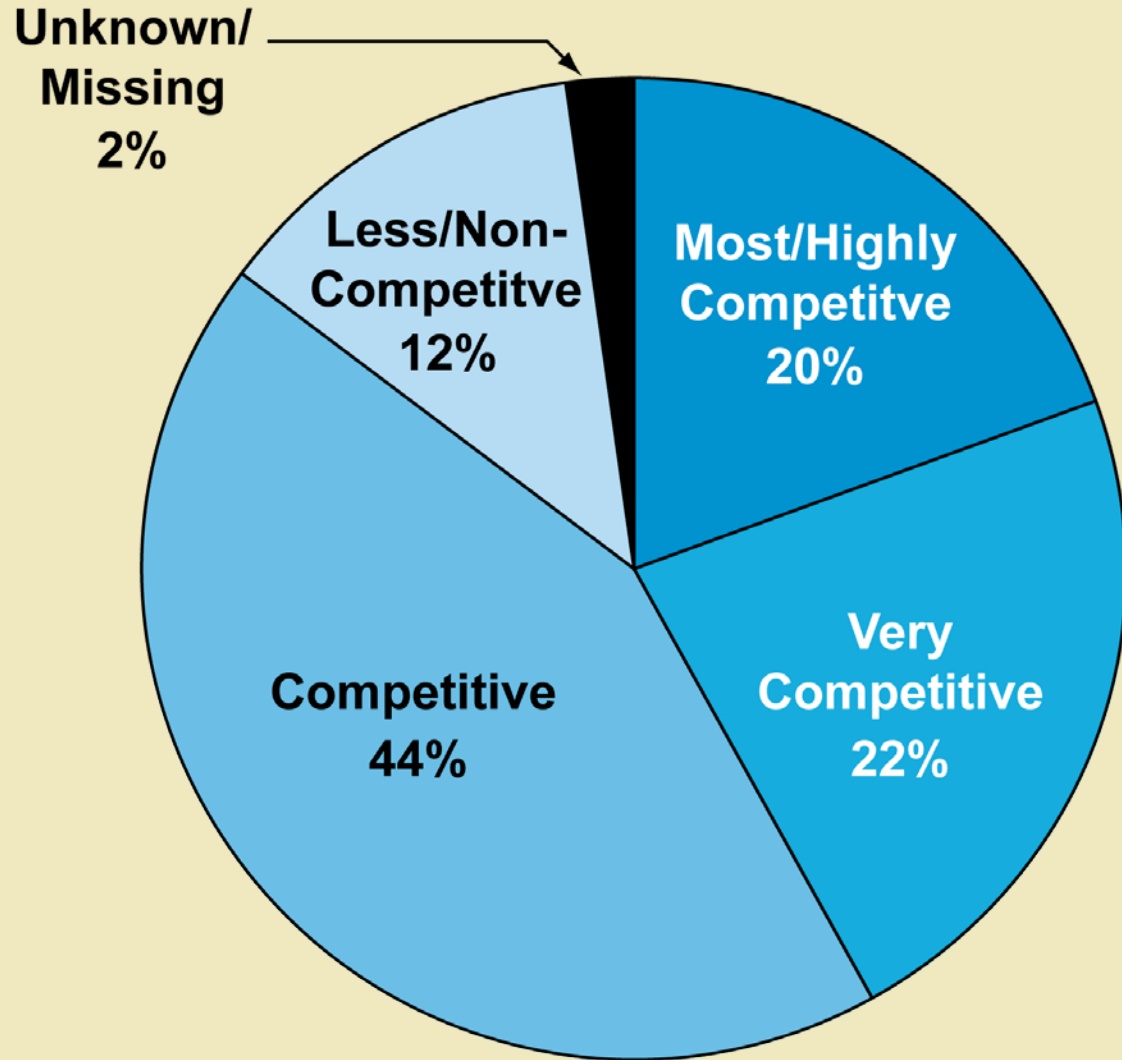
## Sector of Four-Year Starters By Race/Ethnicity



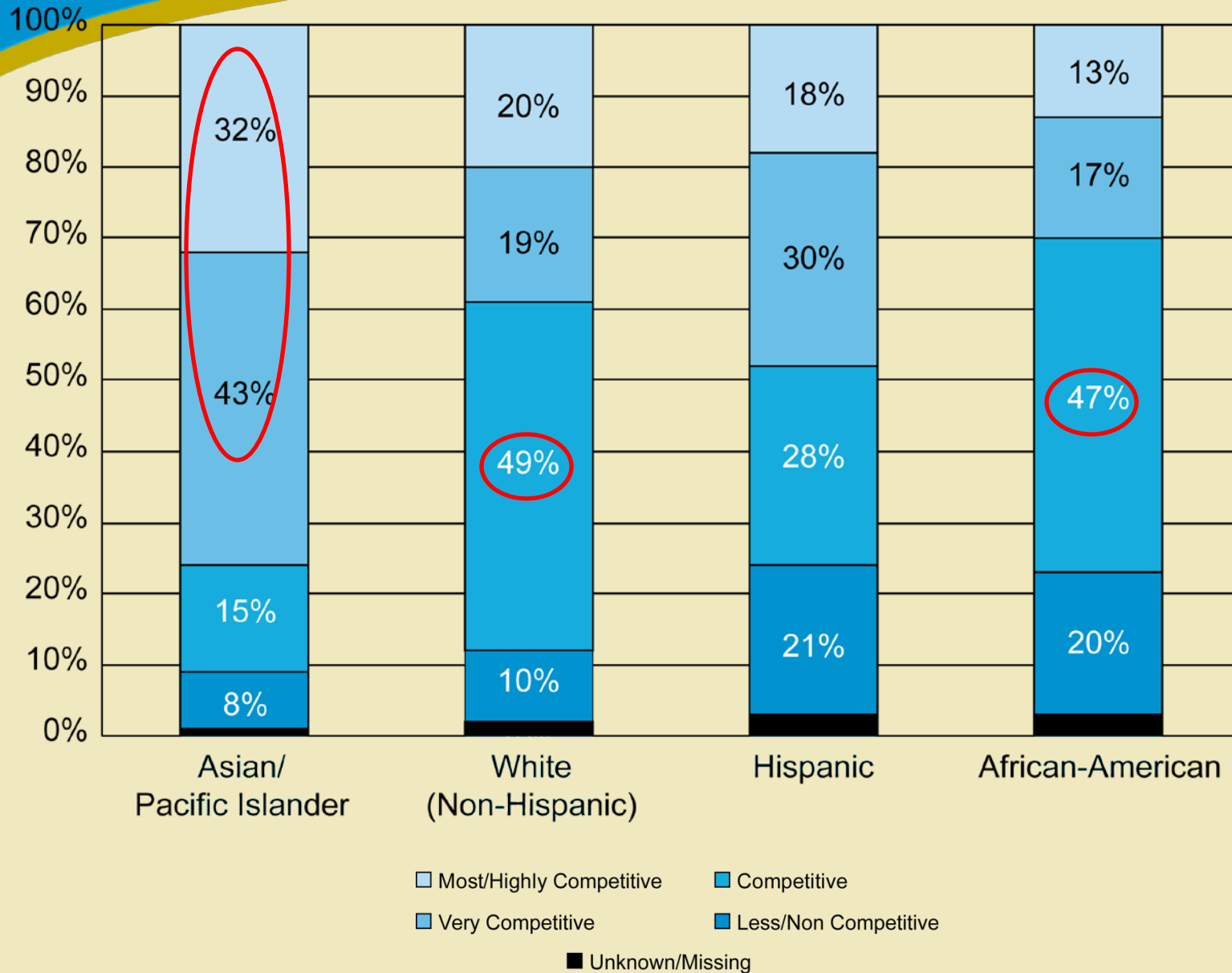
## Sector of Four-Year Starters By College Readiness



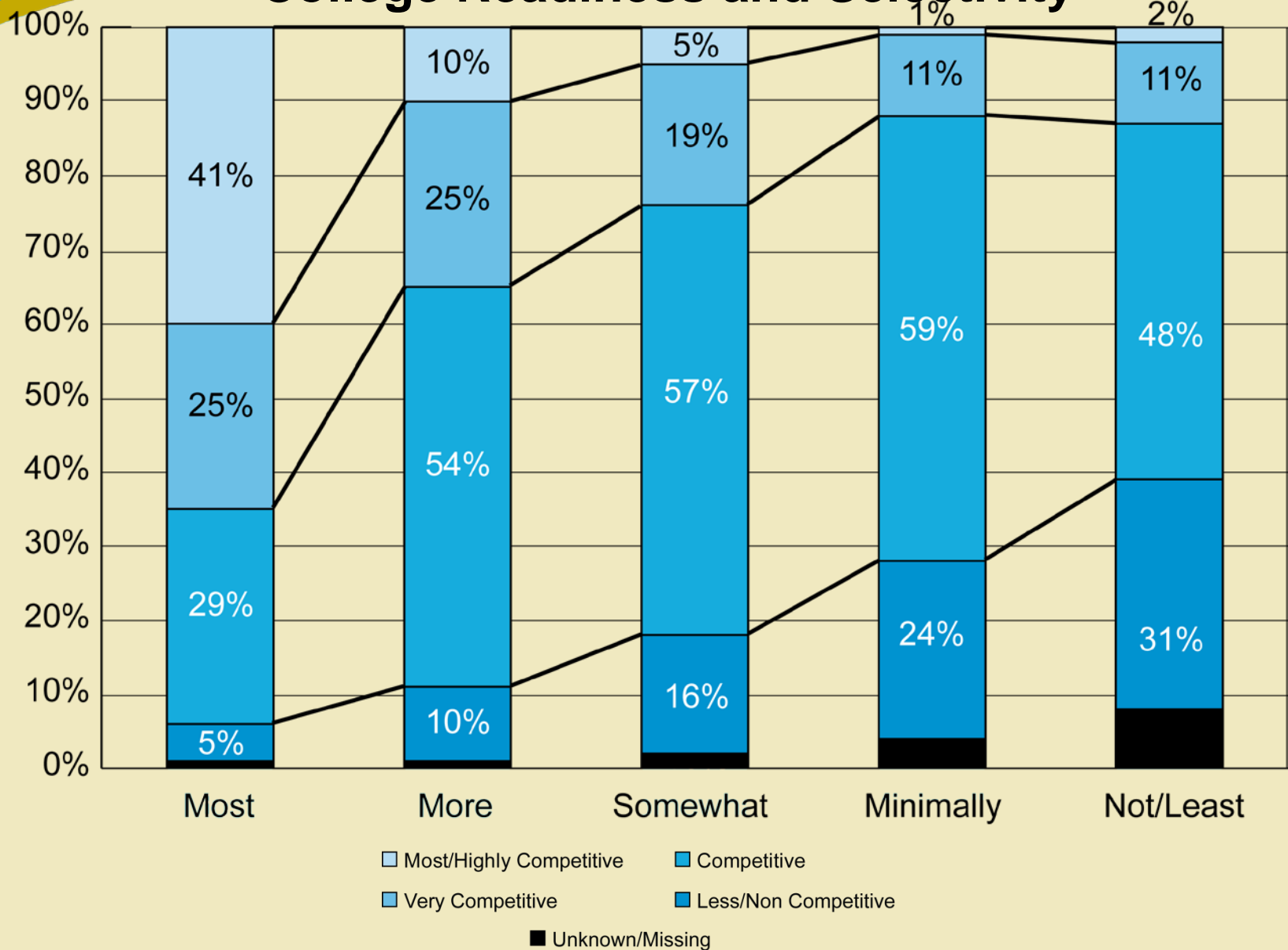
# Selectivity of Four-Year Starters



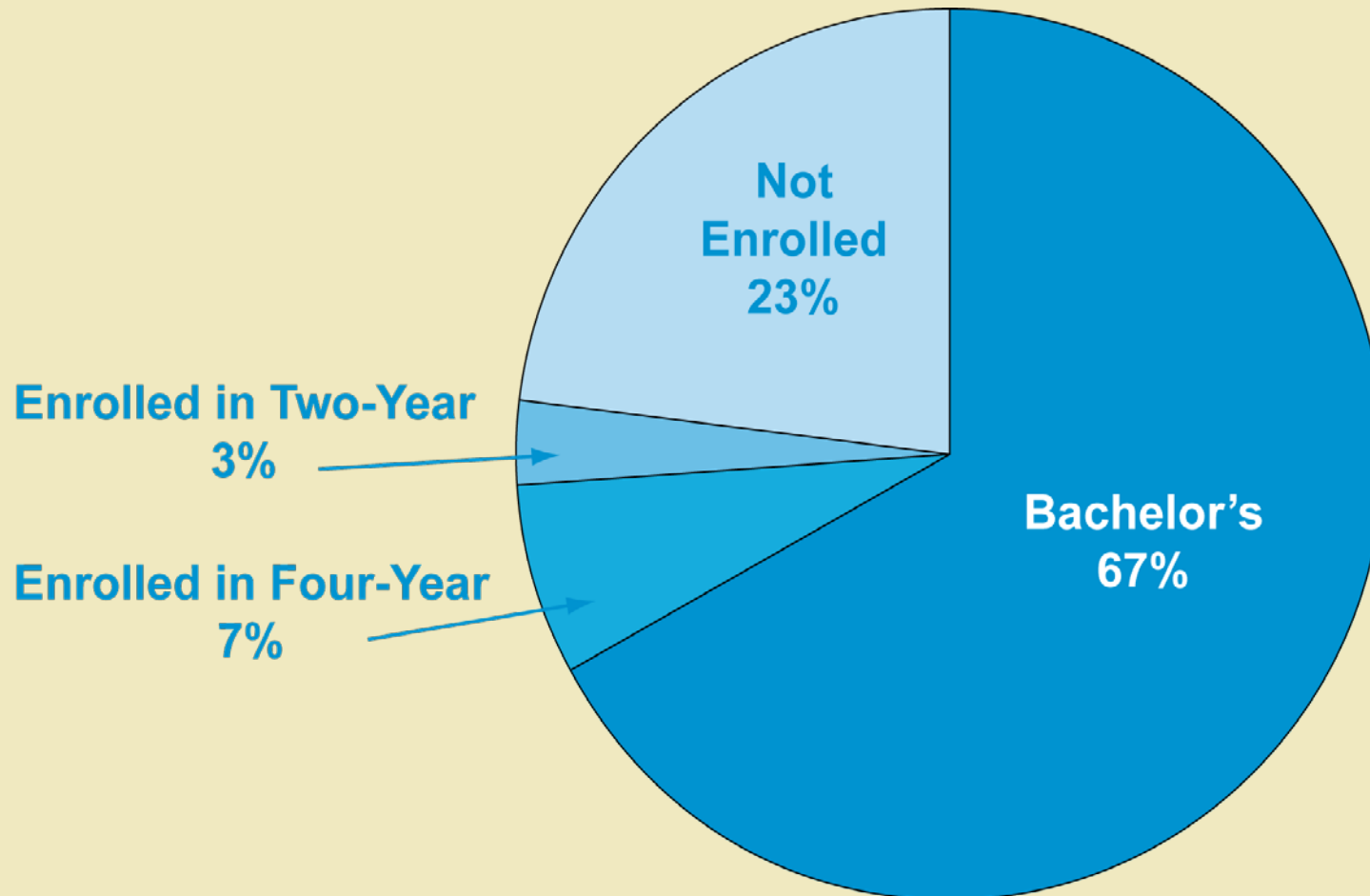
# Race and Selectivity



# College Readiness and Selectivity

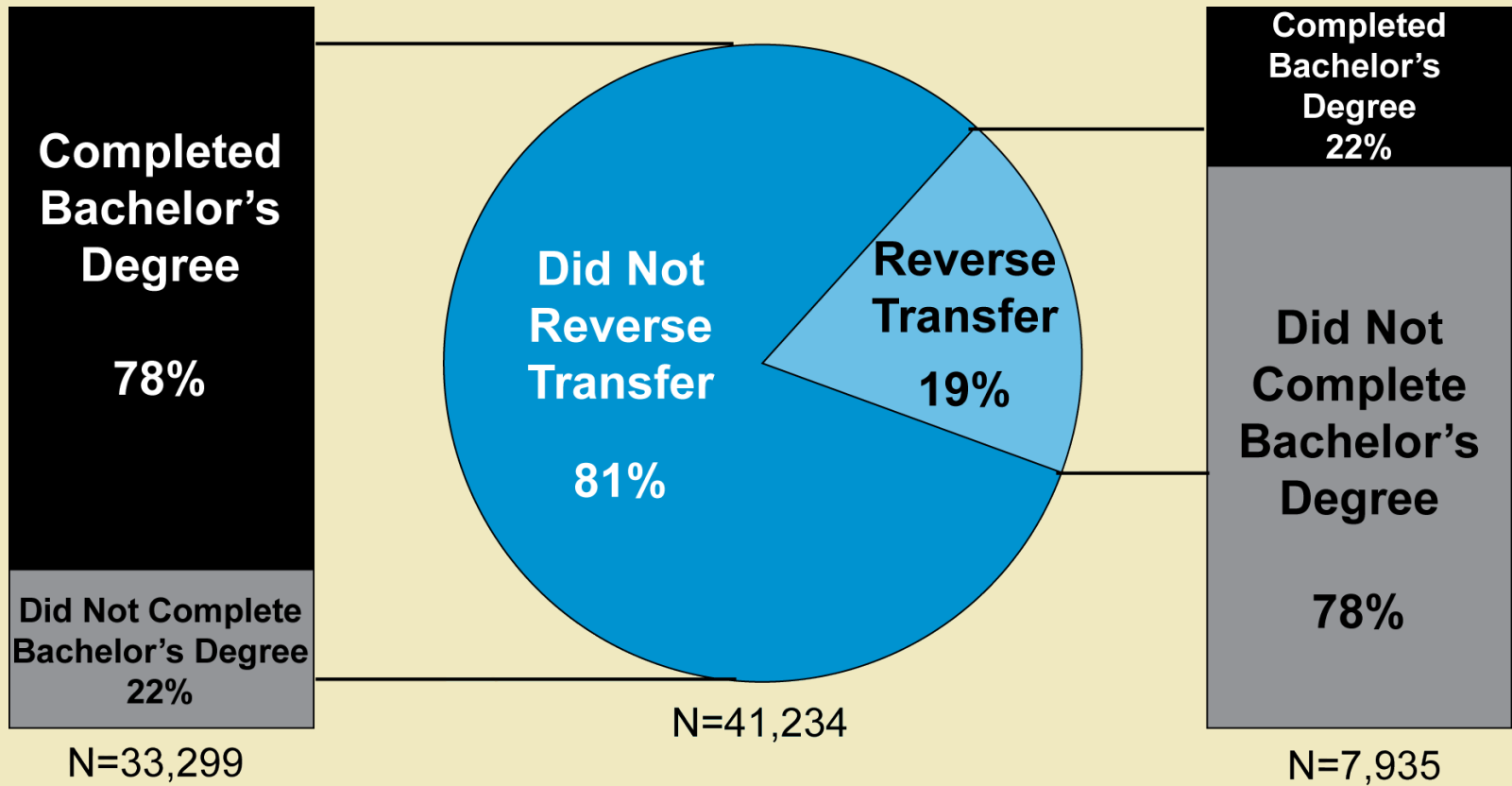


## Four-Year Outcomes



- 67% Grad rate over six years.
- An additional 10% were still enrolled in higher education.
- A little less than a quarter did not complete and were not enrolled.

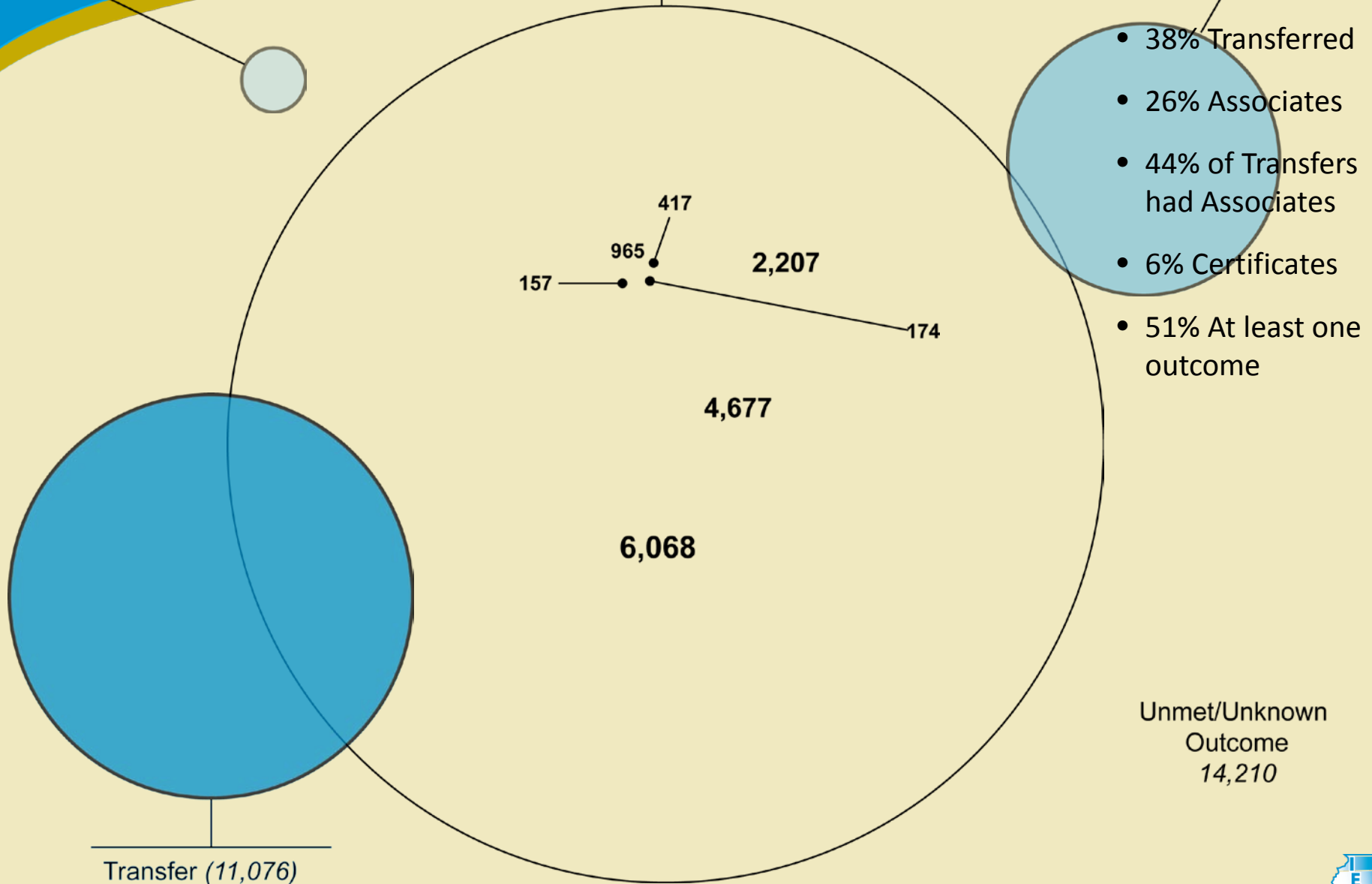
## Reverse Transfer



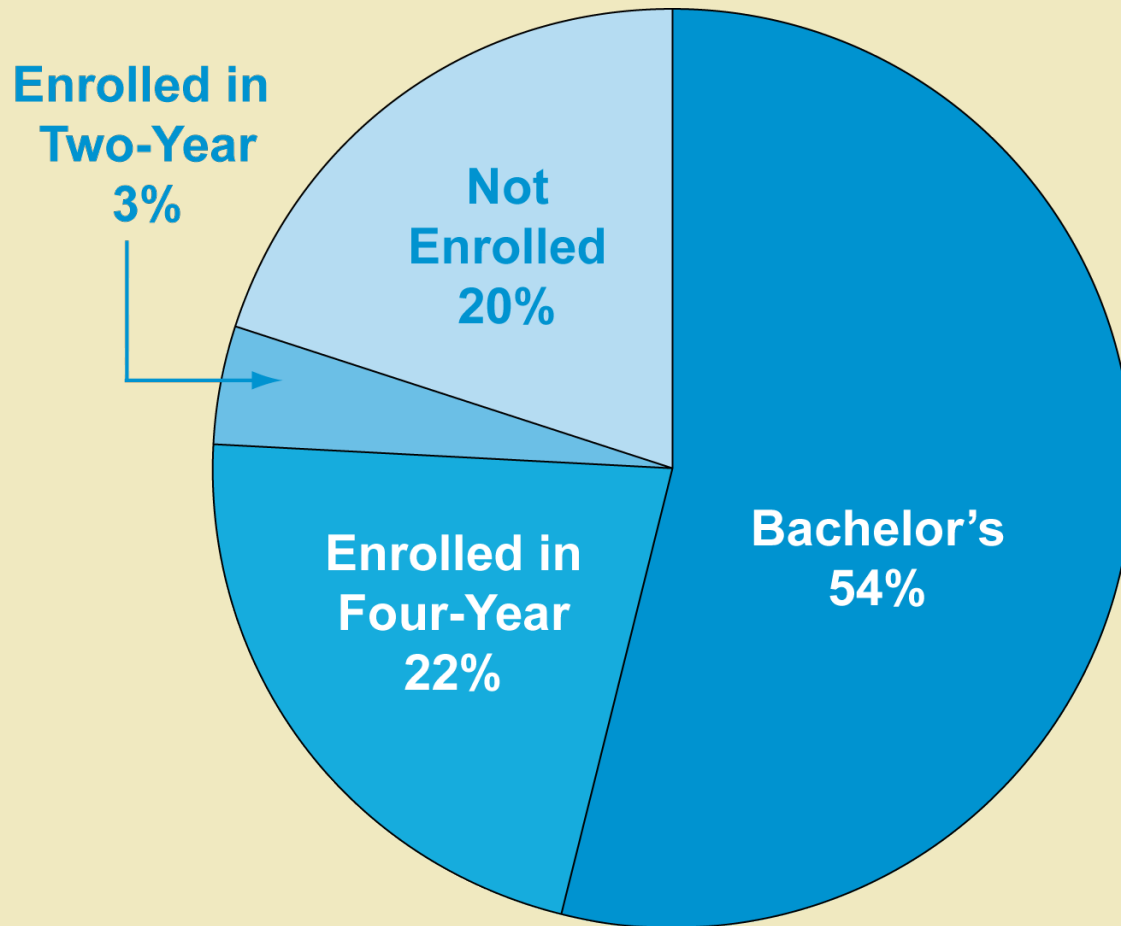
Total Initially Enrolling at a Two-Year Institution (28,875)

Certificate (1,713)

Associate's Degree (7,475)

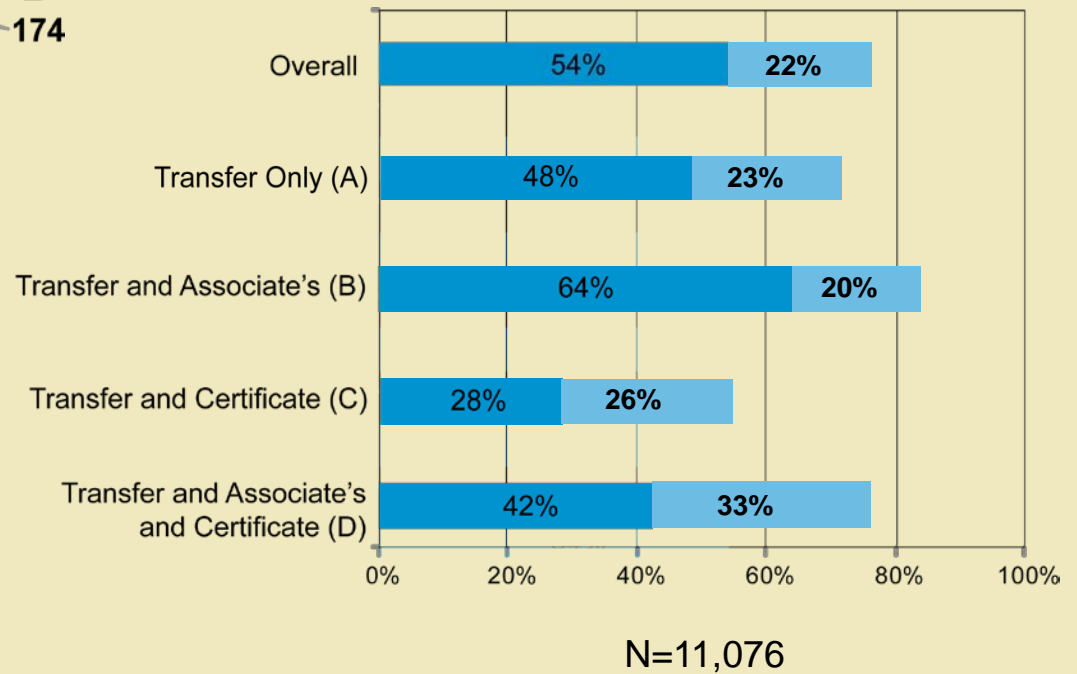
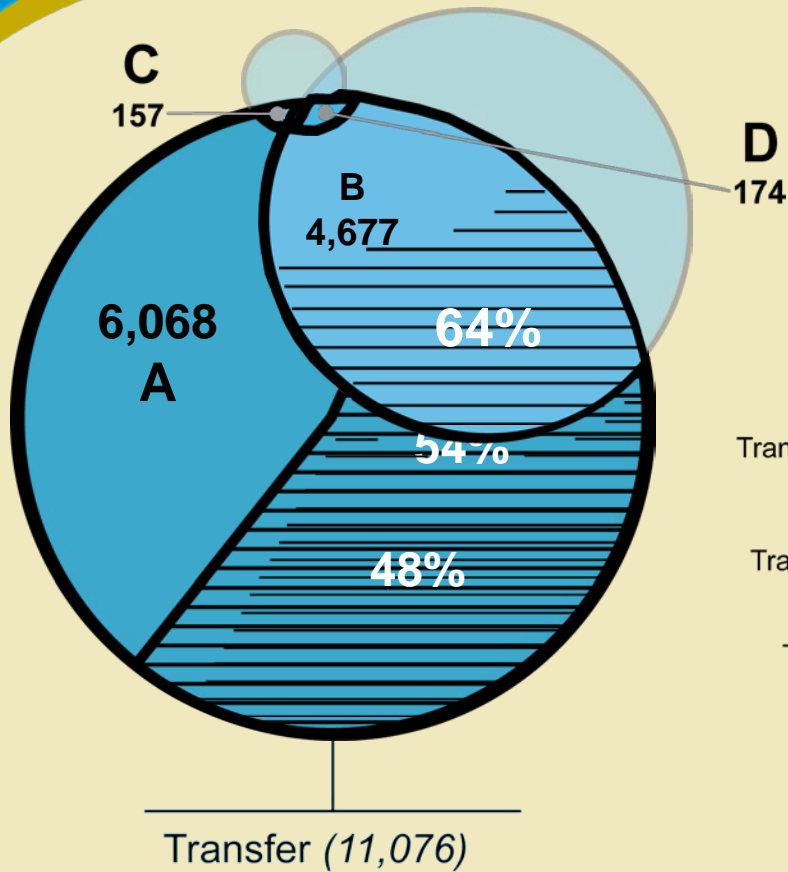


## Two-Year to Four-Year Transfer



- Over half earned a bachelor's degree by the Spring of 2008.
- An additional 22% were still enrolled in a four-year institution.
- This illustrates that time to degree may be increased.

## Bachelor Completion Rate for Two-Year to Four-Year Transfers



# Logistic Regression

- Two separate models
  - Initial enrollment at four-year institution
  - Bachelor's degree completion for four-year starters
- Included all student and school characteristics included in the framework
- Determined each variable's predictive importance regarding the outcome holding everything else constant

# Predicting 4-Yr Enrollment and Bachelor Completion

## Odds Ratios for Key Student Characteristics

- Definite Gender Gap (widens)
- For Race, the pattern varied across the comparisons
- Although parental income was extremely important in both measures, it lost some of its predictive value in terms of completion

Variable	Initial 4-yr Enrollment	Bachelor Completion
Gender		
Female to Male	1.19	1.51
Race		
African-American to White	2.17	(1.56)
Hispanic to White	~	(1.38)
Asian to White	1.48	~
Parental Income		
High to Low	2.28	1.76
Mid-High to Low	1.63	1.47
Mid-Low to Low	1.20	1.14

~no statistically significant difference at the  $p < .001$  level

# Predicting 4-Yr Enrollment and Bachelor Completion

## Odds Ratios Calculated for College Readiness and Region

- College readiness matters the most in both measures.
- All of the regions were more likely to enroll than the Southeast
- However, only two of the regions were more likely to complete: Northeast and West Central

Variable	Initial 4-yr Enrollment	Bachelor Completion
College Readiness		
Most to Not/Least	24.59	5.85
More to Not/Least	11.30	2.86
Somewhat to Not/Least	5.29	1.91
Minimally to Not/Least	2.91	1.29
Region		
Chicago to Southeast	4.44	~
Northeast to Southeast	2.10	1.40
Northwest to Southeast	1.51	~
West Central to Southeast	1.86	1.41
East Central to Southeast	1.72	~
Southwest to Southeast	2.21	~

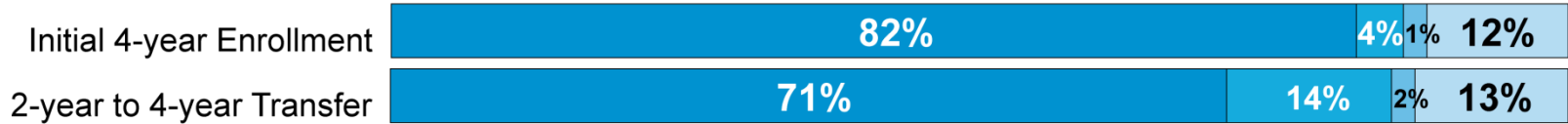
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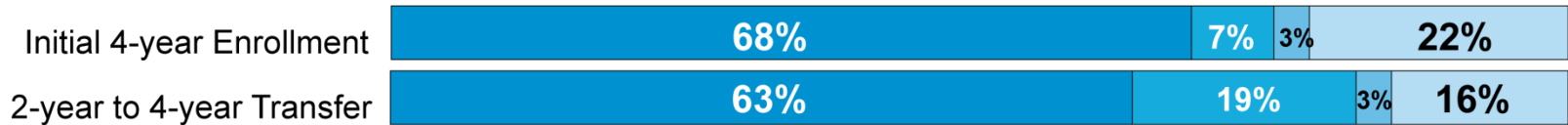
# DISCUSSION

# College Readiness Matters

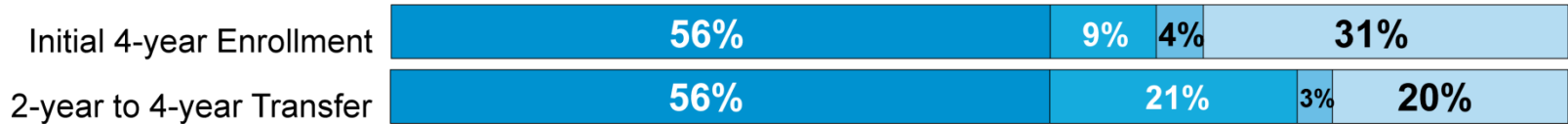
## MOST READY



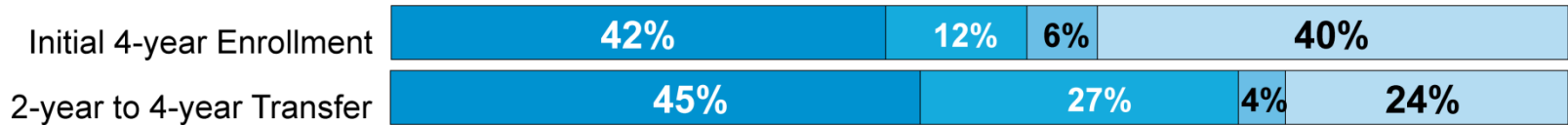
## MORE READY



## SOMEWHAT READY



## MINIMALLY READY



## NOT/LEAST READY



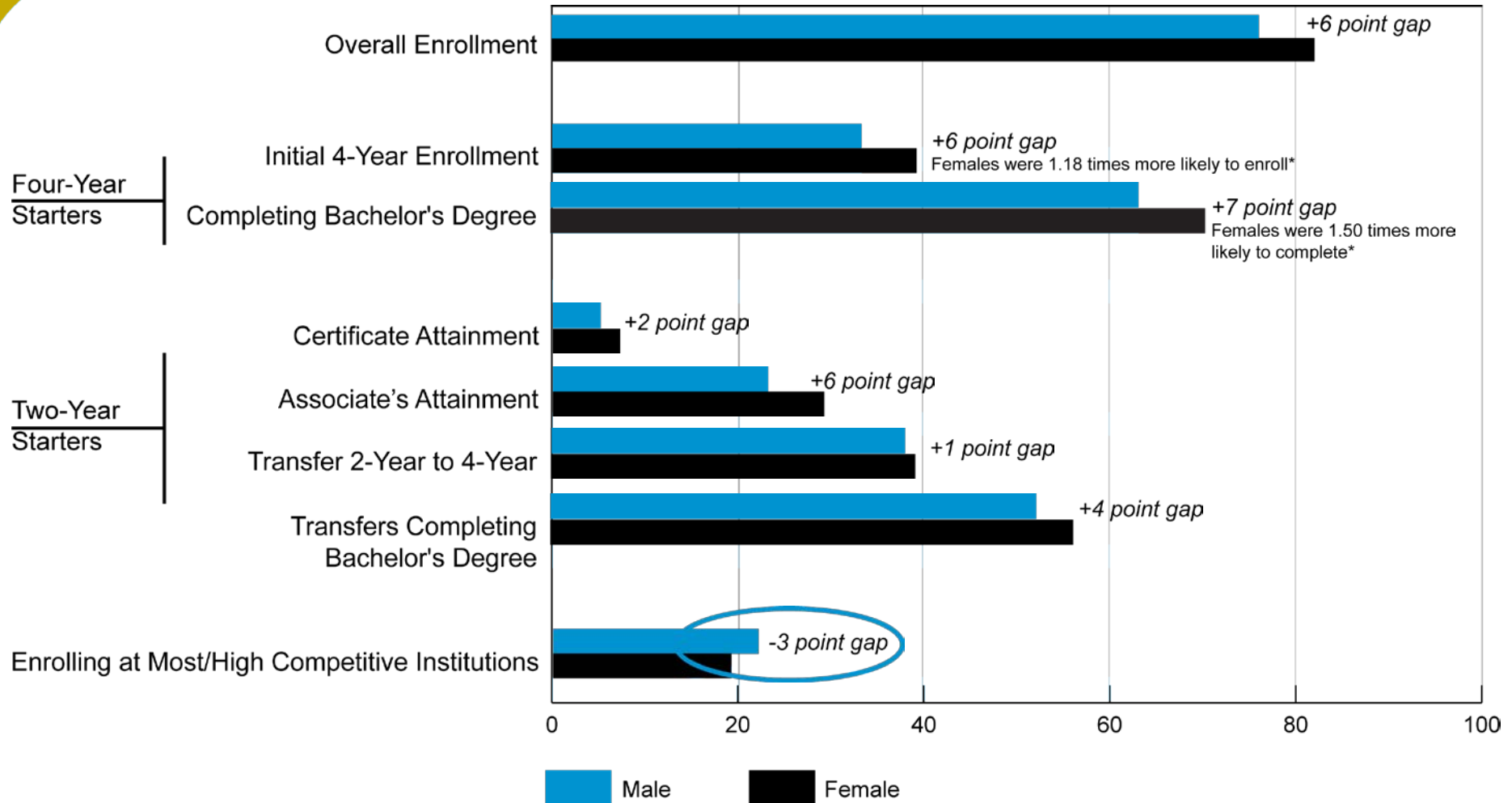
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ Bachelor's completion
 ■ Enrolled at 4-year
 ■ Enrolled at 2-year
 ■ Not Enrolled

— Non-Completers at the end of the 6-year study —

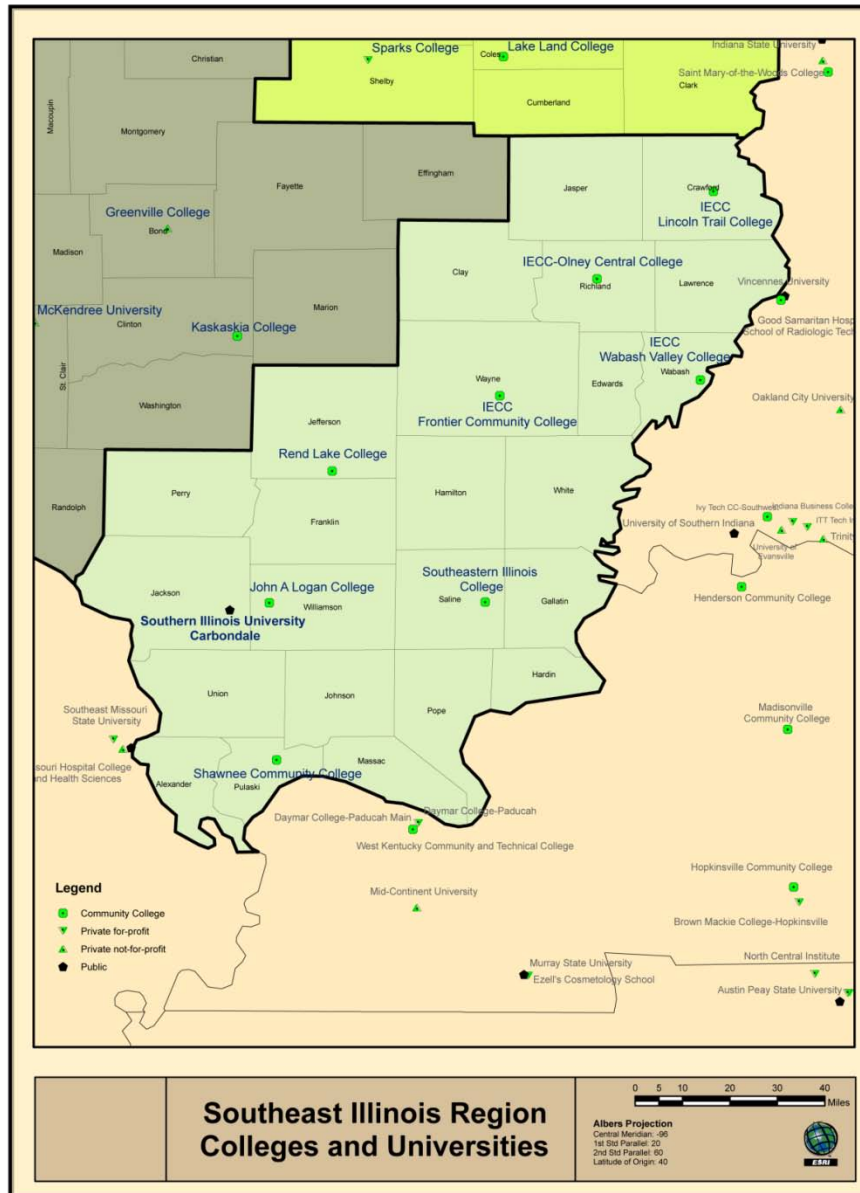


## Gender Difference



\* Based on logistic regression.

## Southeast Region and Surrounding Colleges and Universities



- Limited access to four-year institutions in Southeast IL
- Highest college going region (85%)
- Highest Two-Year Starters (47%)
- Lowest Four-Year Starters Region (19%)
- 39% four-year starter go out of state.

# Conclusions

- College Readiness was the strongest indicator of participation and completion through all the different outcomes measured in this study.
- There was a gender gap favoring female students in terms of participation and an even larger gap favoring female students for bachelor completion.
- Generally speaking, Asian and White students had higher participation and completion rates compared with African-American and Hispanic students (the descriptive and predictive results varied).
- Students in the Southeast region have less access (proximity) to four-year institutions, so they use the community college system and out-of-state 4-yr institutions more than students from other areas of the state.
- Two-yr to four-yr transfer is a viable pathway for bachelor degree completion. For students in the somewhat to the not/least ready college readiness categories, taking the two-year to four-year transfer pathway improves the likelihood that the student will graduate with a bachelor's degree.

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