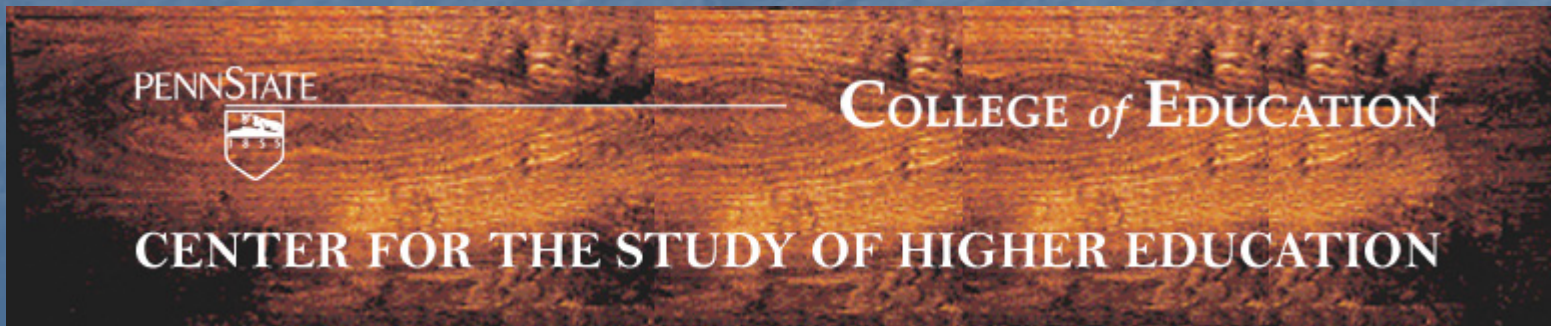


Education Writers Association
2005 Annual Meeting
St. Petersburg, FL
May 6, 2005

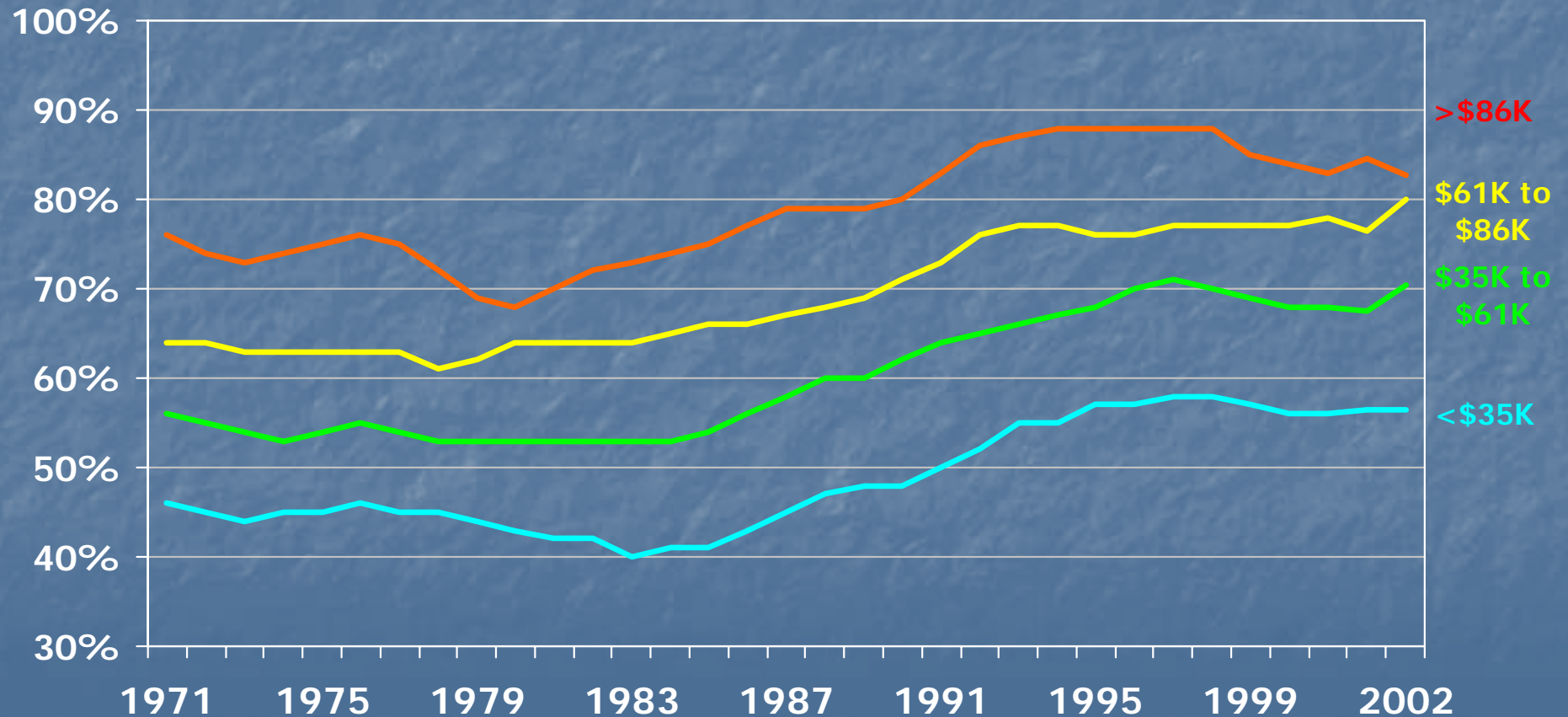
College Access: **Money**, Preparation, or Student Perception and Support?

Donald E. Heller



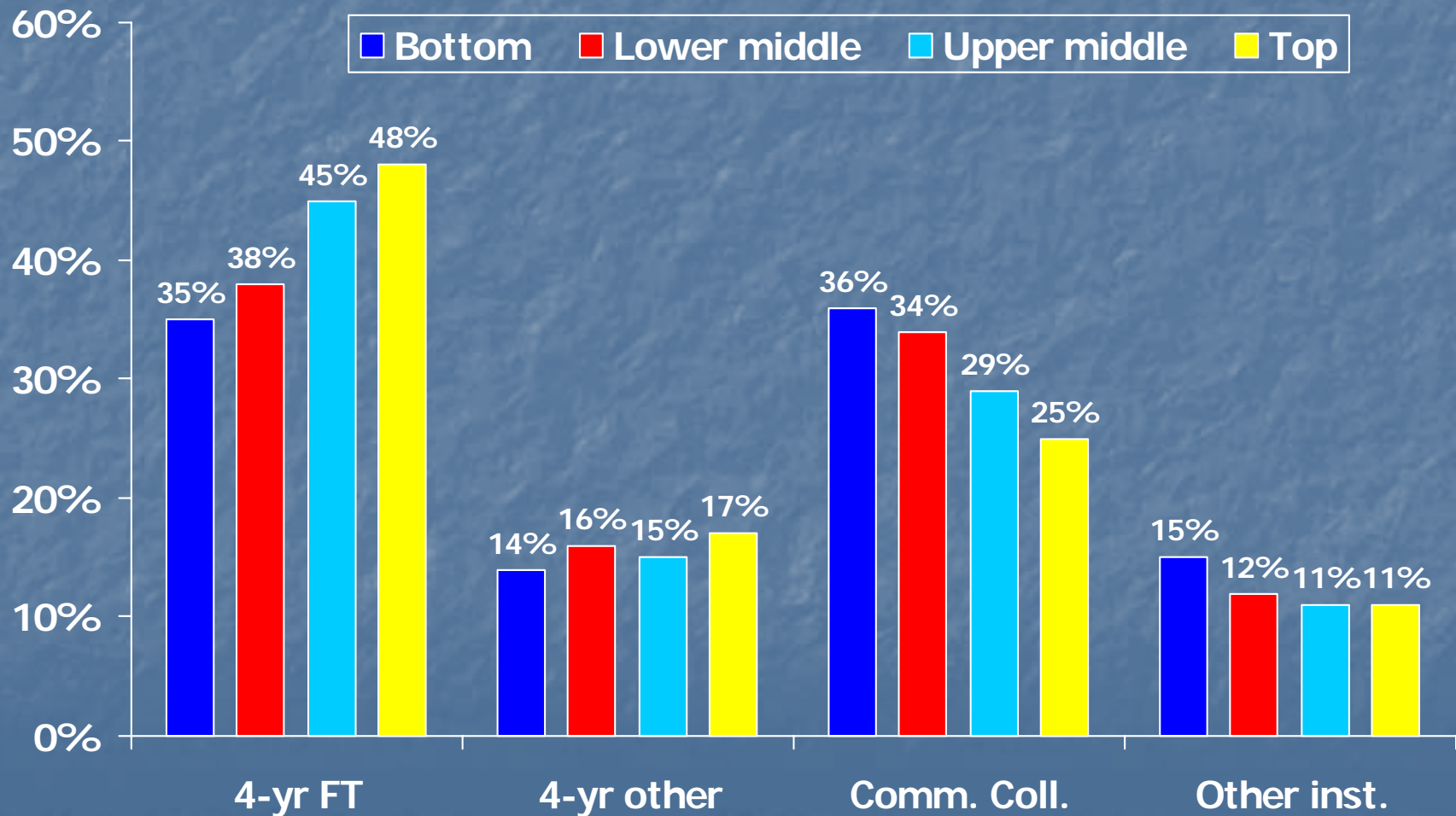
Why worry about college access?

College participation rates of unmarried 18-24 year old HS grads



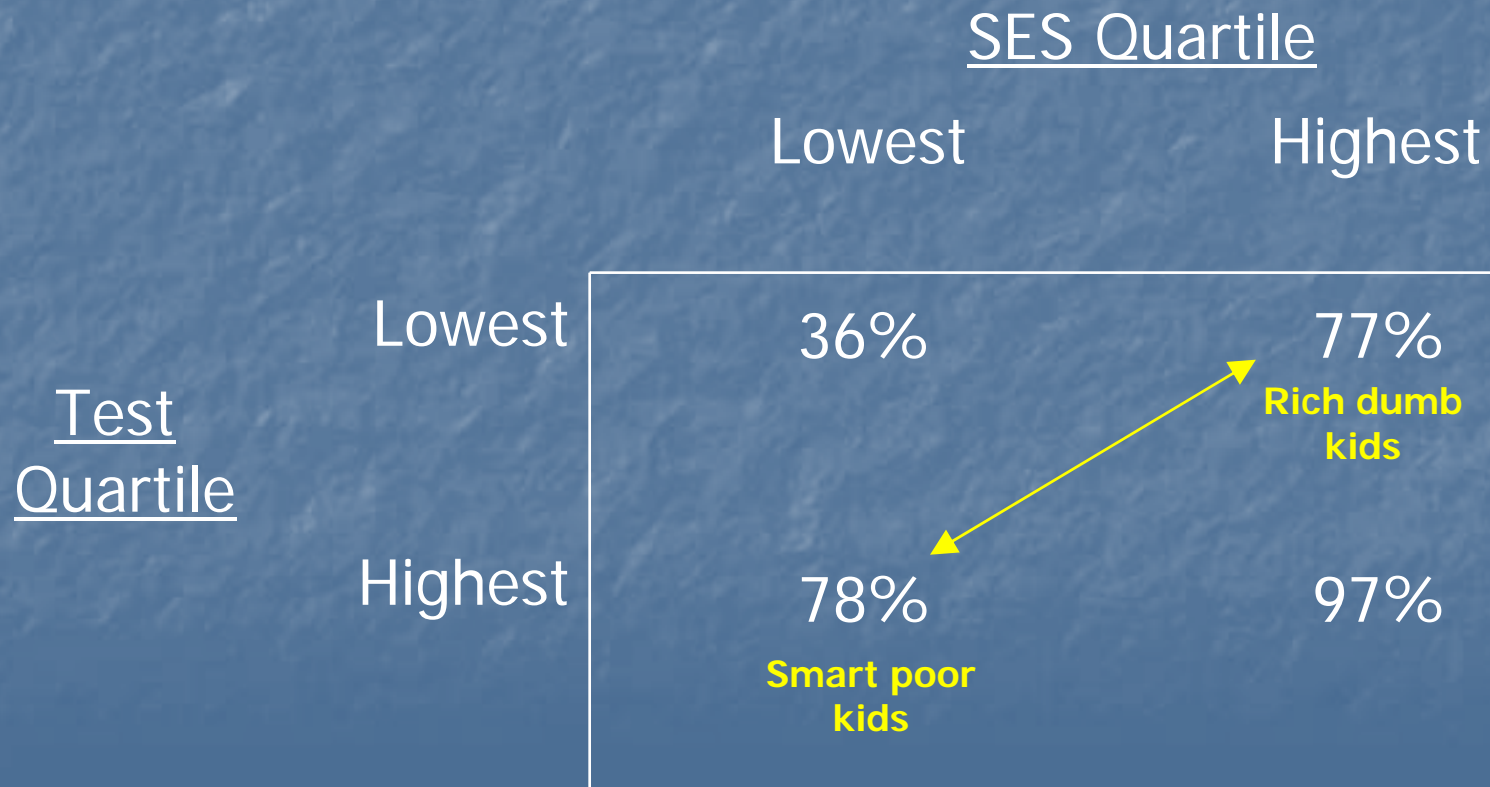
Stratification in higher education

Distribution of each income quartile by sector and attendance
2003-2004 dependent students

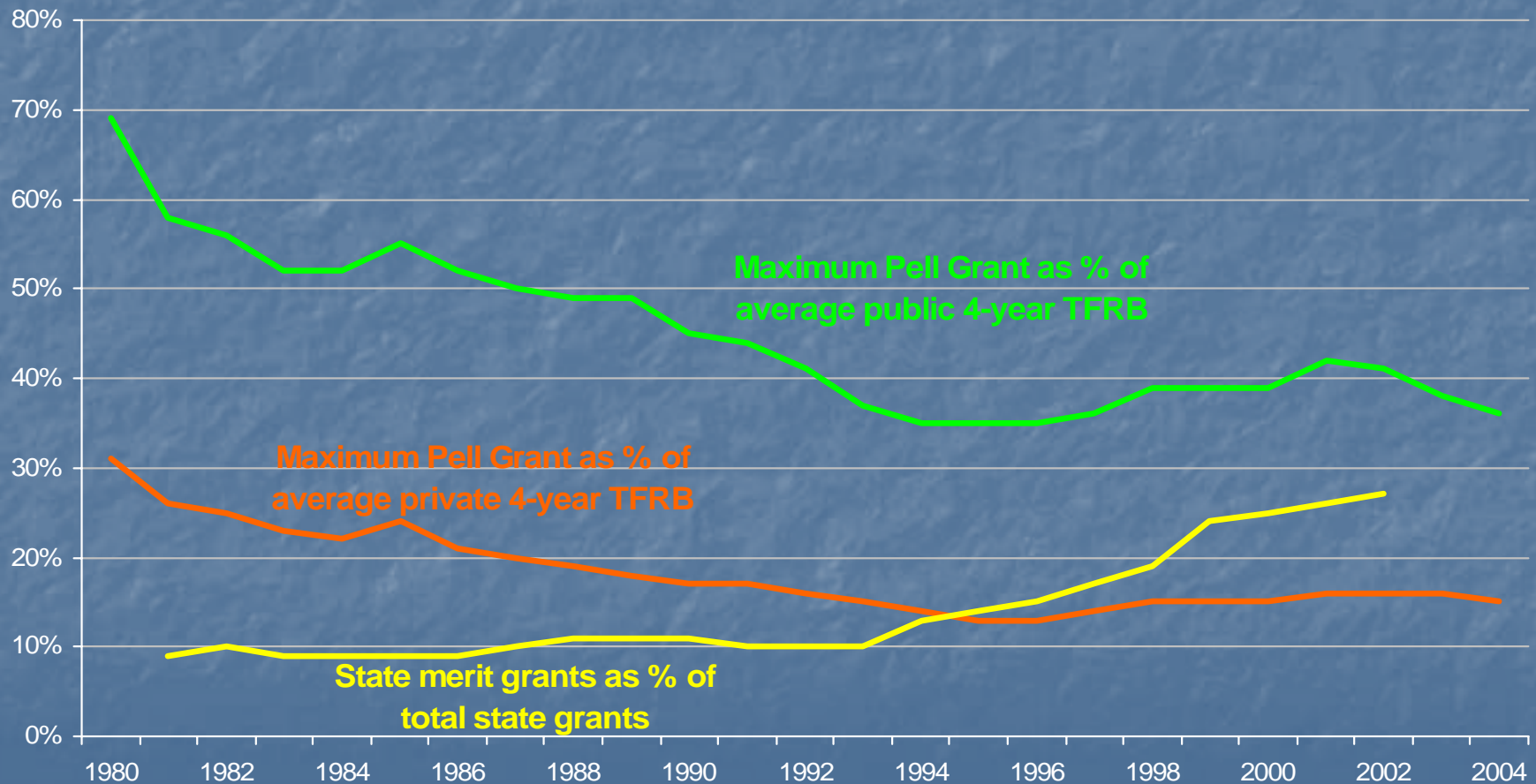


Academic barriers vs. financial barriers?

Percentage of 1992 High School Graduates
Attending College by 1994



Changes in federal and state financial aid

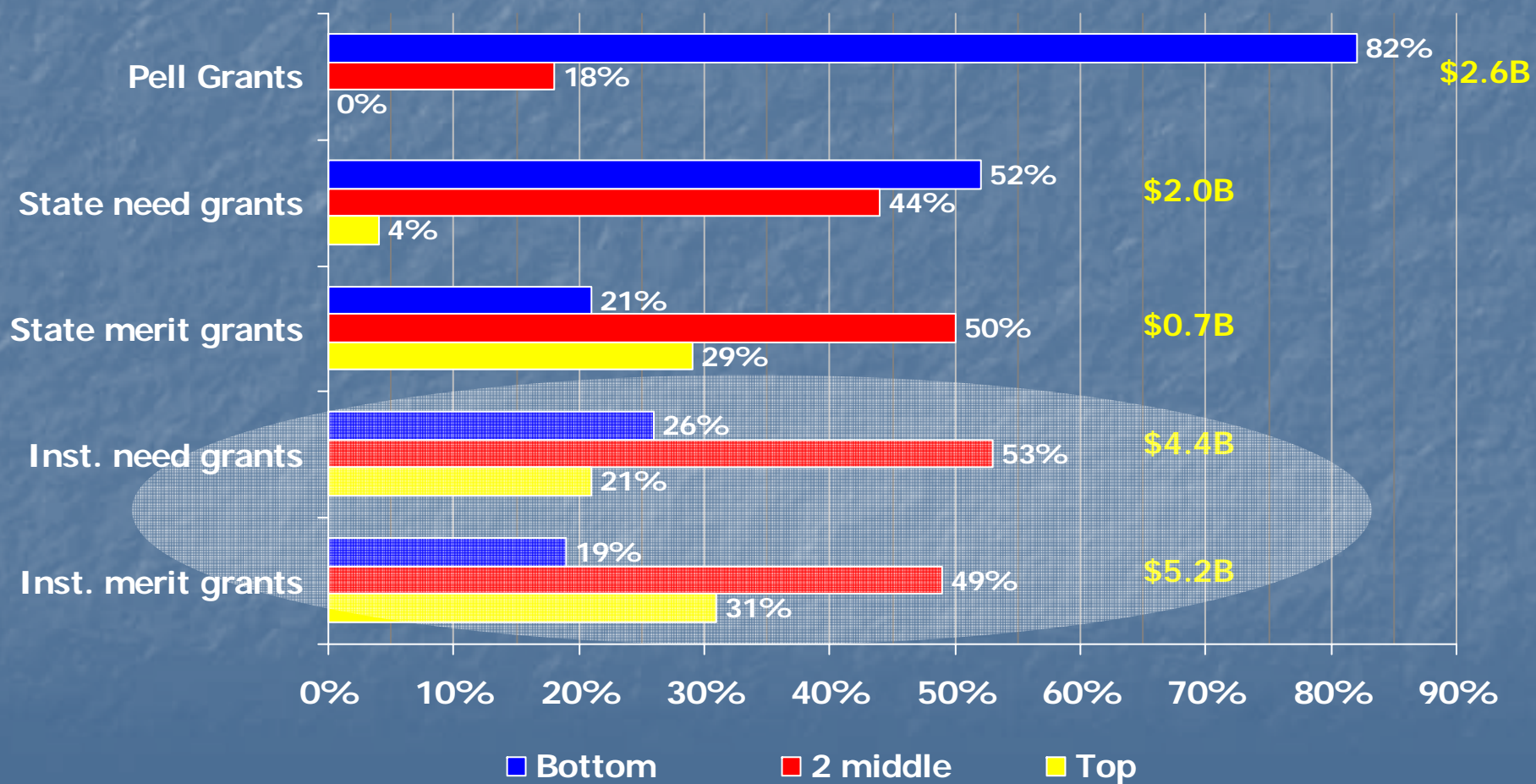


Since 2001 . . .

- Pell grants have increased \$350 (9%)
- Most state need-based grants have been flat or cut
- Most state merit grants have risen in line with tuition
- No increase in subsidized loan limits
- Tuition has increased:
 - \$2,705 (16%) at private 4-year institutions
 - \$1,366 (36%) at public 4-year institutions
 - \$468 (29%) at community colleges
- Next year?
 - \$50 increase in Pell
 - Little, if any, increase in state need grants
 - Small increase in first and second year borrowing limits

Distribution of grant dollars by income quartile

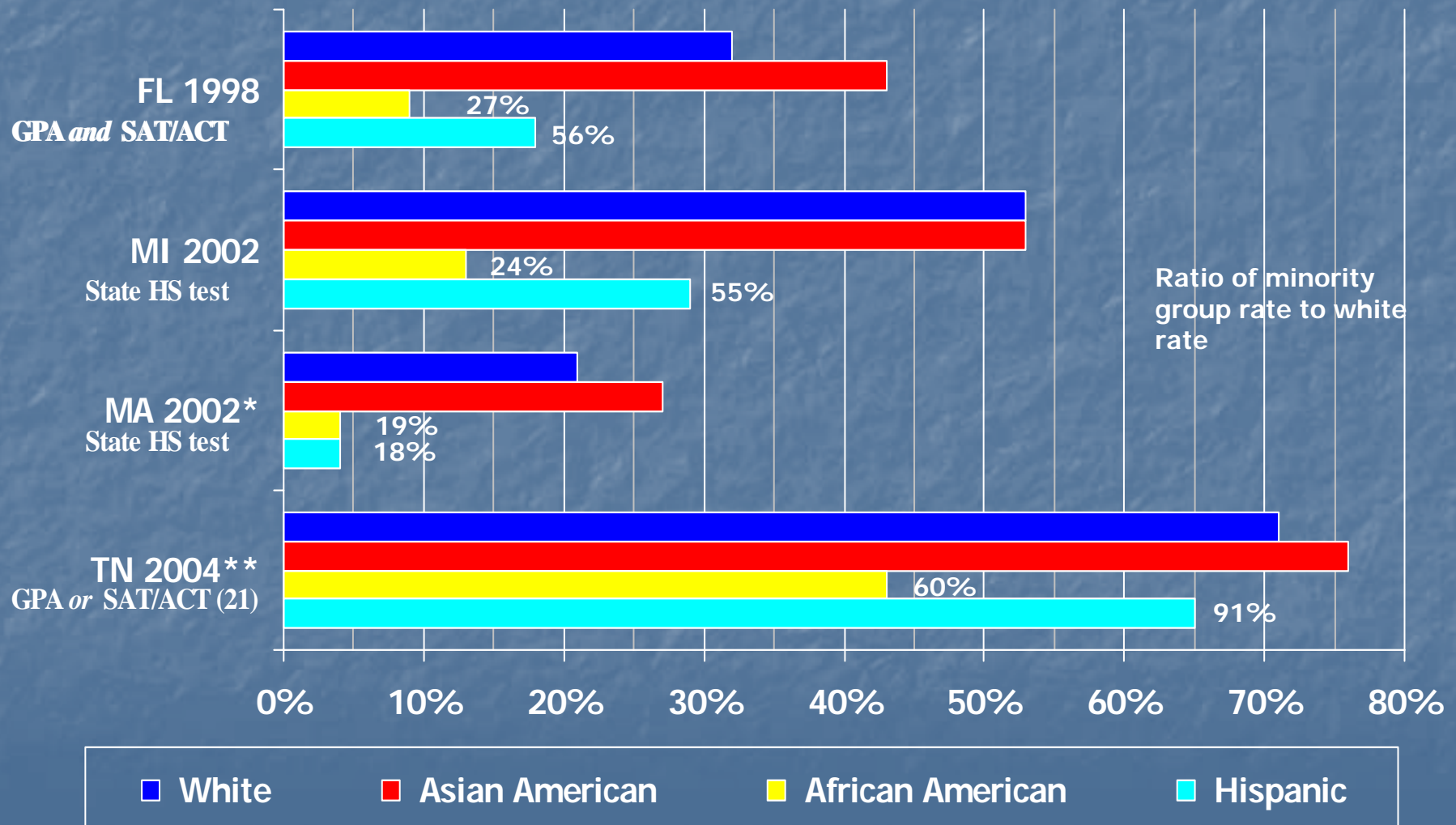
Dependent, full-time students in 4-year institutions, 2003-2004



Merit aid – impact on college access

- Civil Rights Project reports, 2002 and 2004
 - **Georgia:** Over 90% of expenditures on HOPE went to students who would have attended college anyway; program *increased* the gap in college participation between white and African-American students
 - **Florida and Michigan:** Grants awarded disproportionately to racial majority students and students in wealthier communities (those with higher participation rates)
 - **New Mexico:** No impact on access; did shift some students from 2-year to 4-year institutions. 80% of recipients were from families with income >\$40,000 per year, above the state's median income of \$38,000

Students qualifying for state merit scholarships





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"You're kidding! You count S.A.T.s?"

Website

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/deh29>