

OPIA Quality Advocates Network Meeting  
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# Trends in College Access and Affordability: The National Perspective

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PENNSTATE

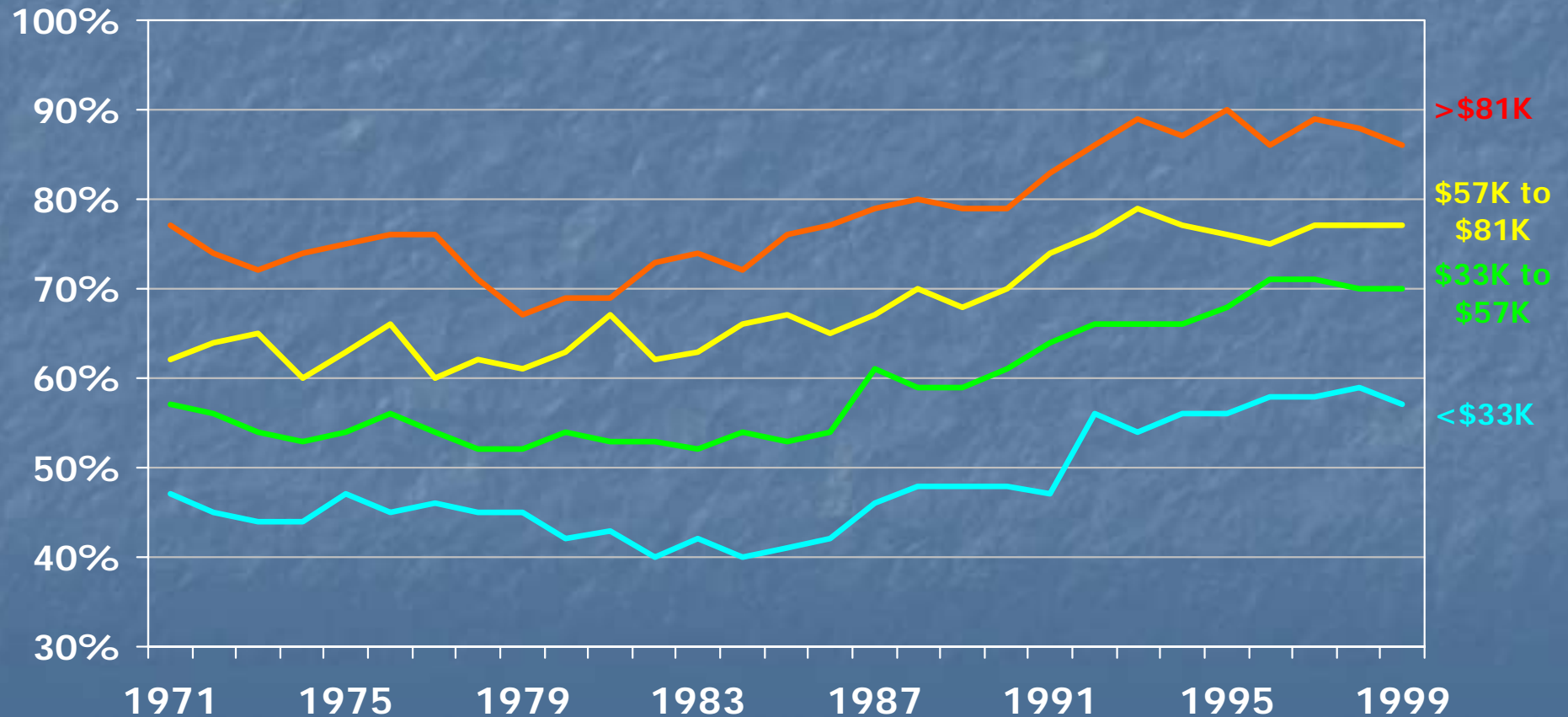


COLLEGE *of* EDUCATION

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

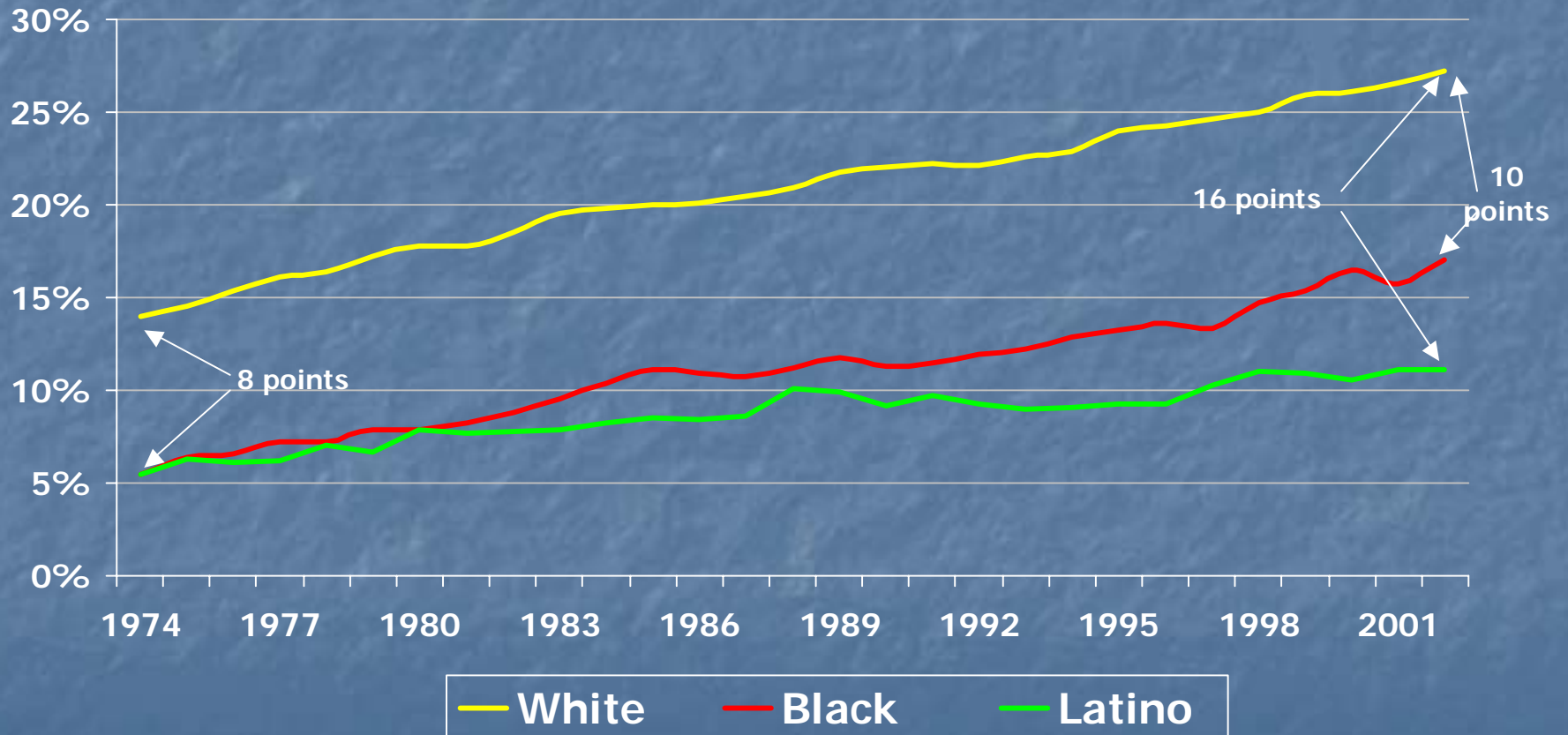
# Why worry about college access?

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



# Gap in educational attainment by race

Proportion of population 25 years or older with at least 4 years college

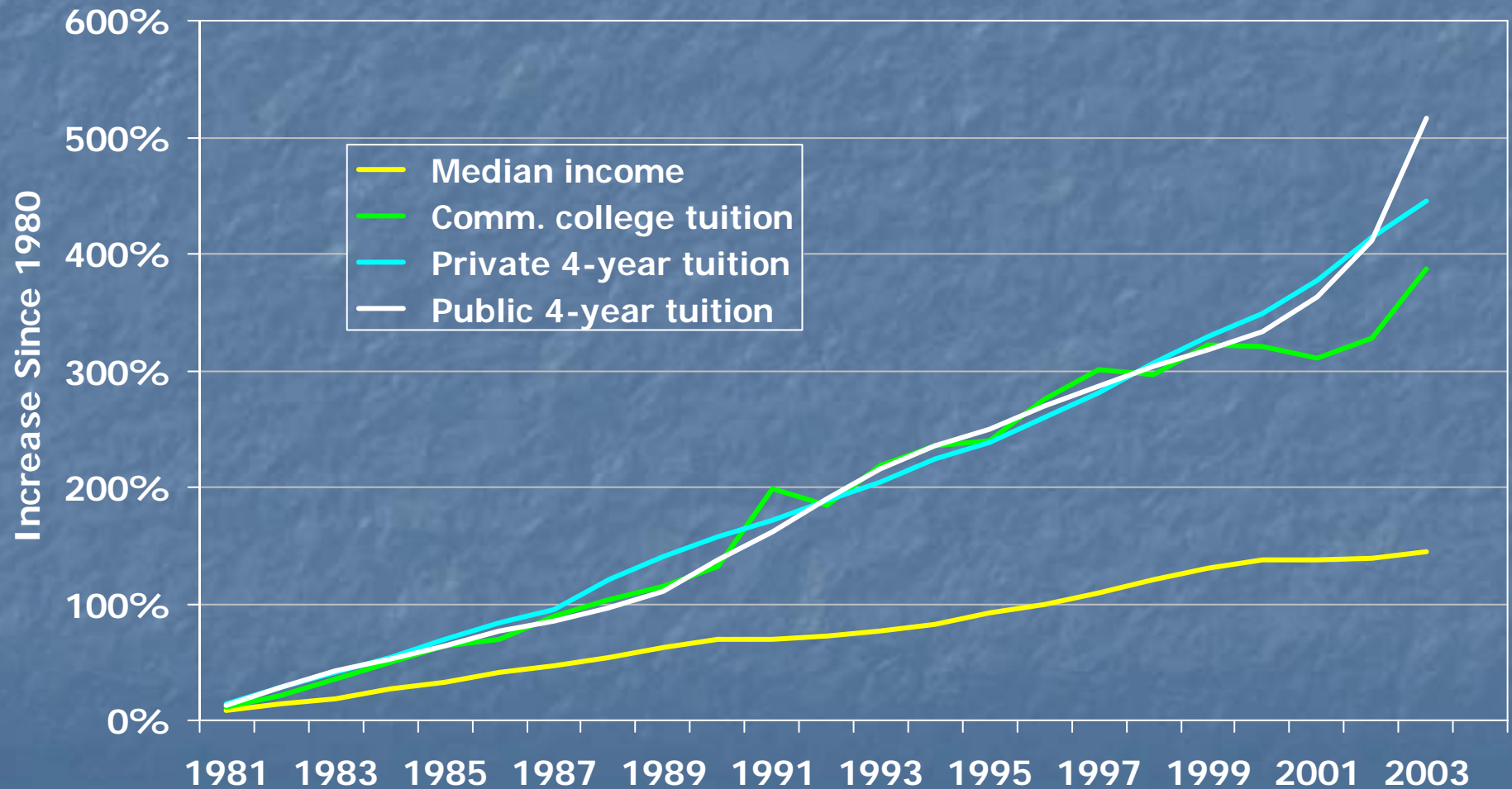


# Academic barriers vs. financial barriers?

Percentage of 1992 High School Graduates  
Attending College by 1994

		<u>SES Quartile</u>	
		Lowest	Highest
<u>Test Quartile</u>	Lowest	36%	77% Not-so-smart rich kids
	Highest	78% Smart poor kids	97%

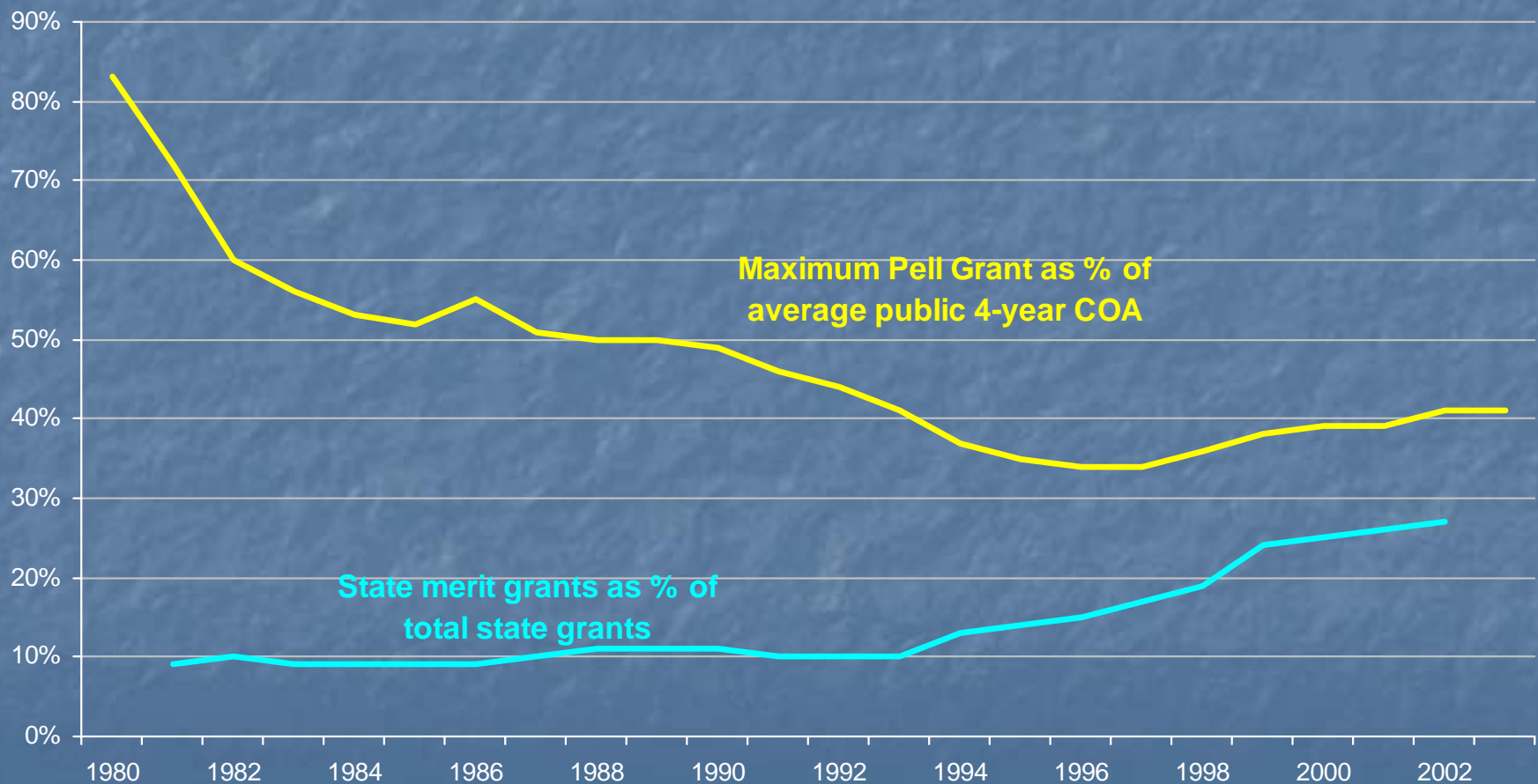
# Changes in tuition prices and ability to pay



## Research on financial aid

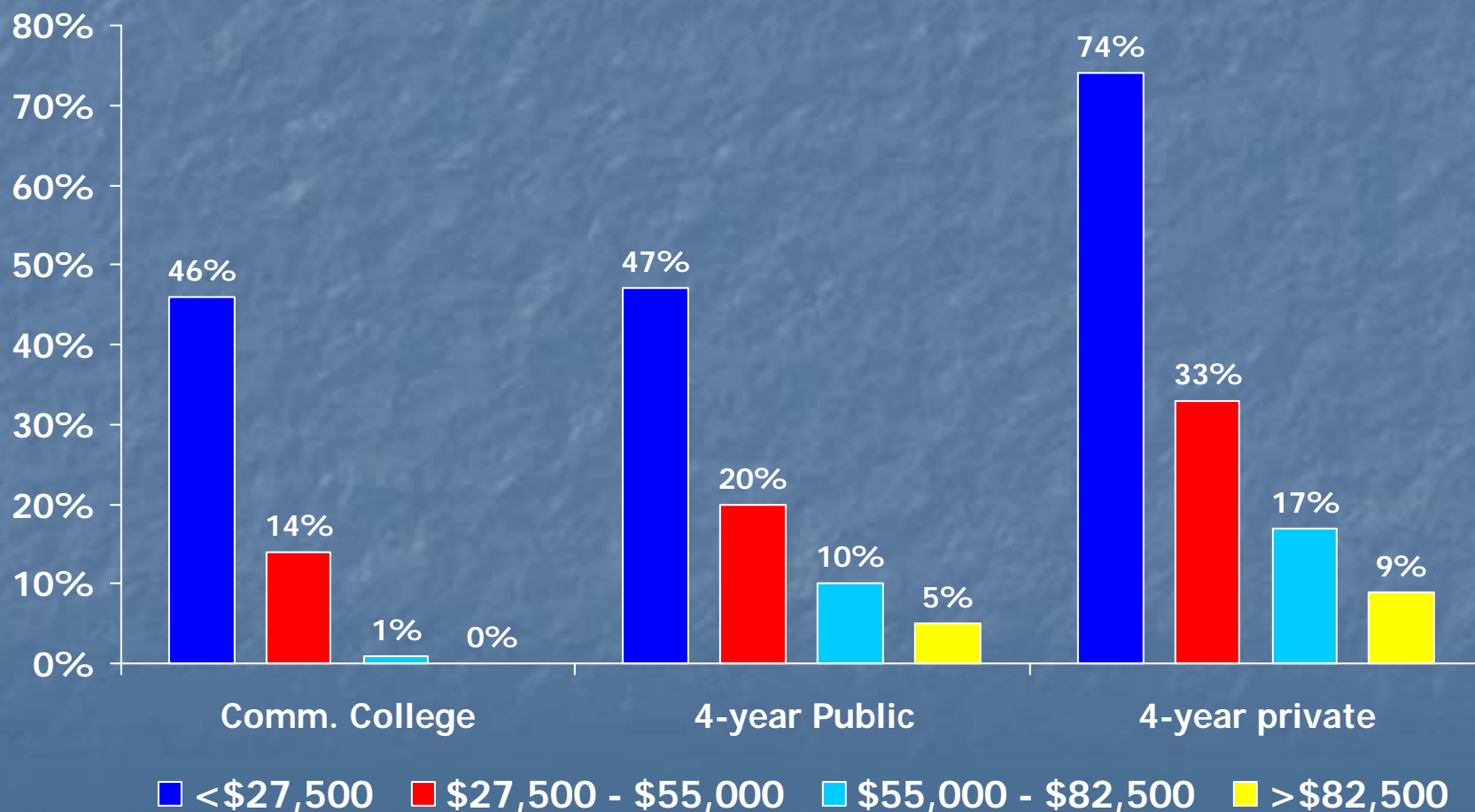
- Most influential on the college entry decisions of lower-income students
- Lower-income students are more responsive to tuition changes than changes in aid awards
- Higher-income students are largely unresponsive to aid in terms of college entry, but can be influenced in terms of college choice
- Grants are more influential than loans

# Changes in federal and state financial aid



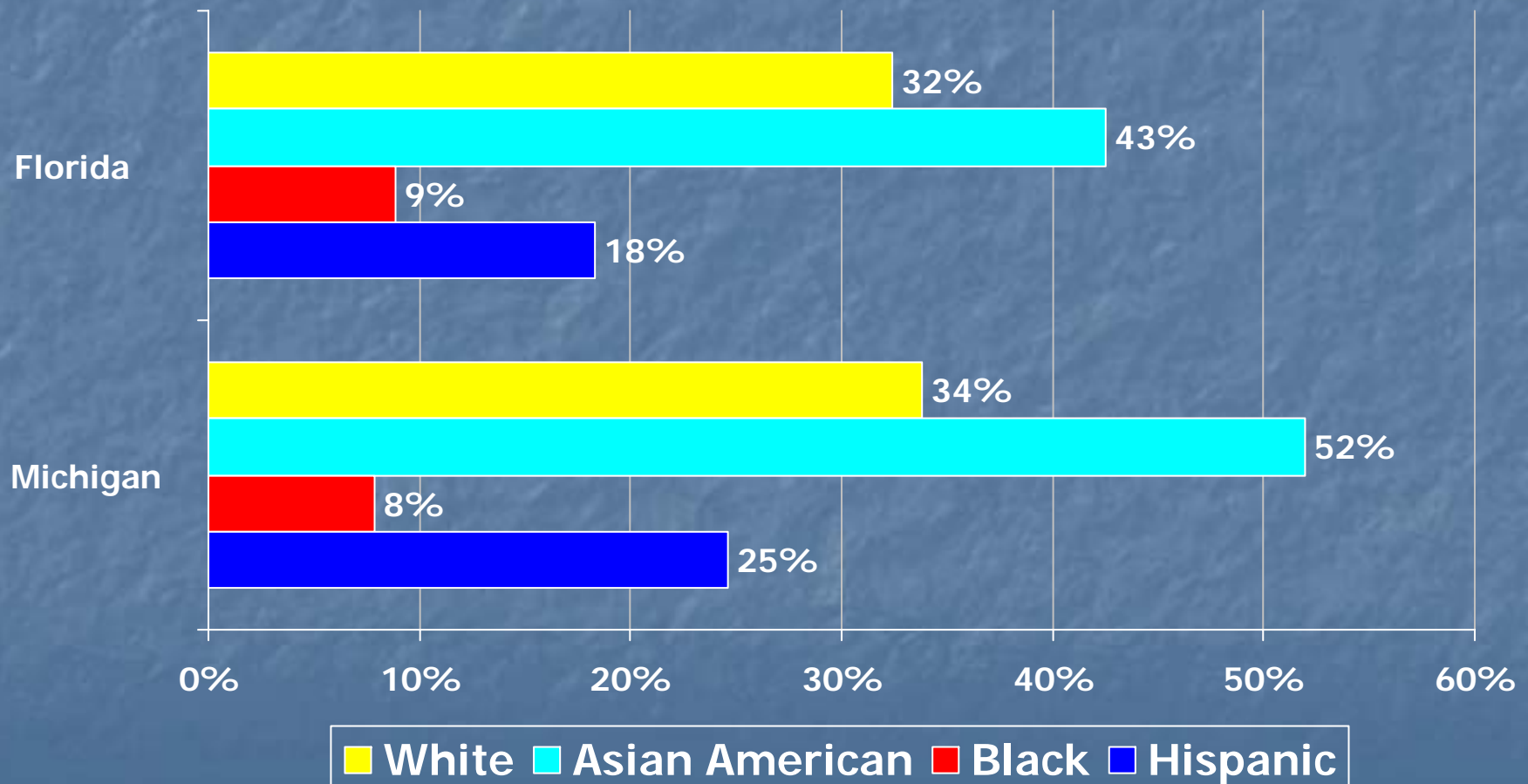
# The impact of borrowing & unmet need

Loans + unmet need as a percentage of family income  
1999-2000 full-time, full-year dependent students

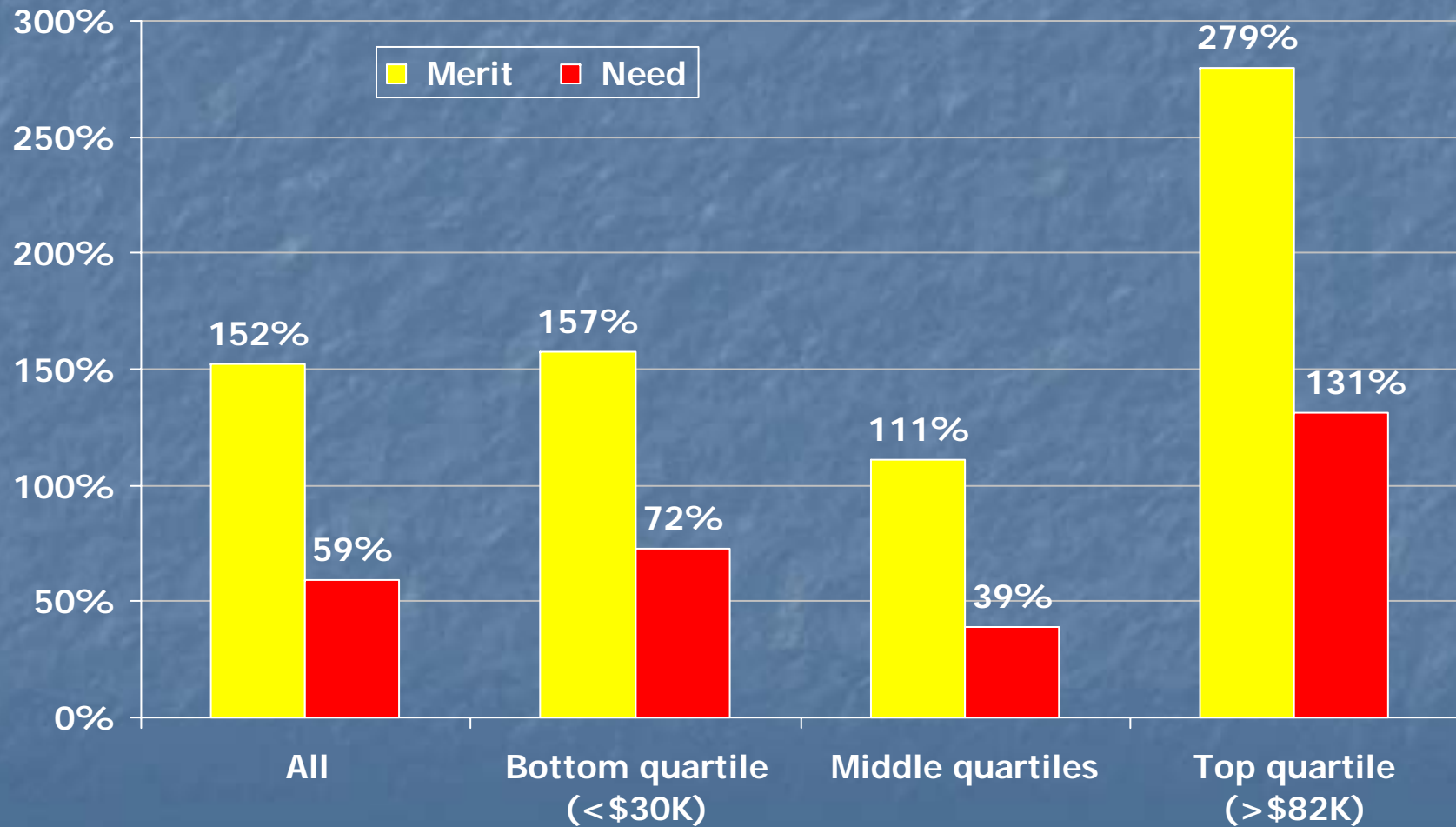


# State merit scholarships

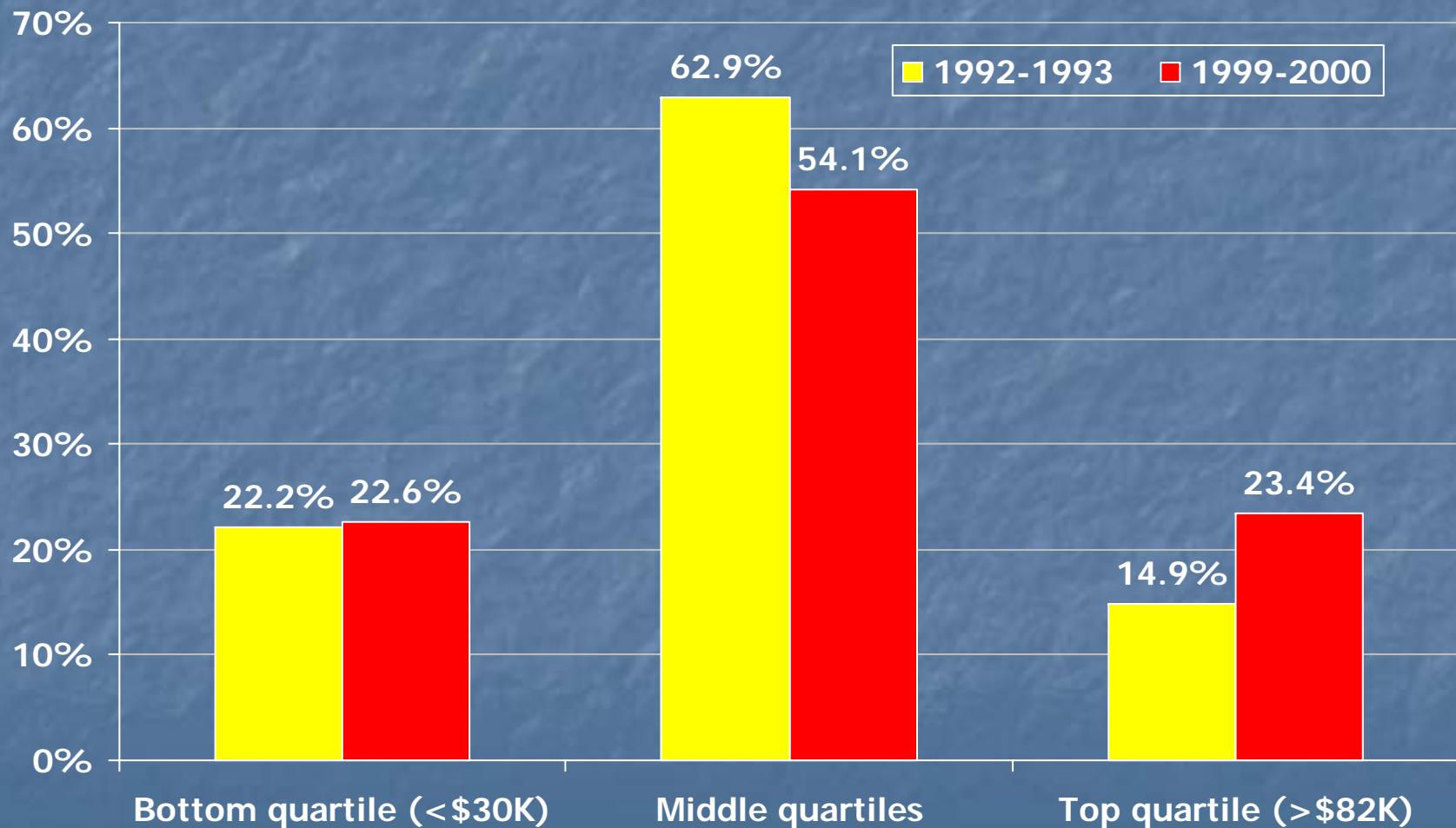
Proportion of students qualifying for merit scholarships



# Changes in institutional grant dollars, 1993 to 2000



# Proportion of total dollars received, 1993 to 2000 (merit and need grants combined)



## The challenges – a “perfect storm”

- Increasing demand
  - HS grads to increase 5% over next decade, 50% nationally will be Latino
  - 700,000 more students at current participation rates
- Lagging resources
  - Operating expenditures
  - Capital expenditures
  - The promise of technology?
- Unknown impact of NCLB on preparation, demand, and participation