

Institute for Education Policy Research
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Access to Higher Education in the United States:
Issues and Challenges

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PENNSTATE



COLLEGE of EDUCATION

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Overview

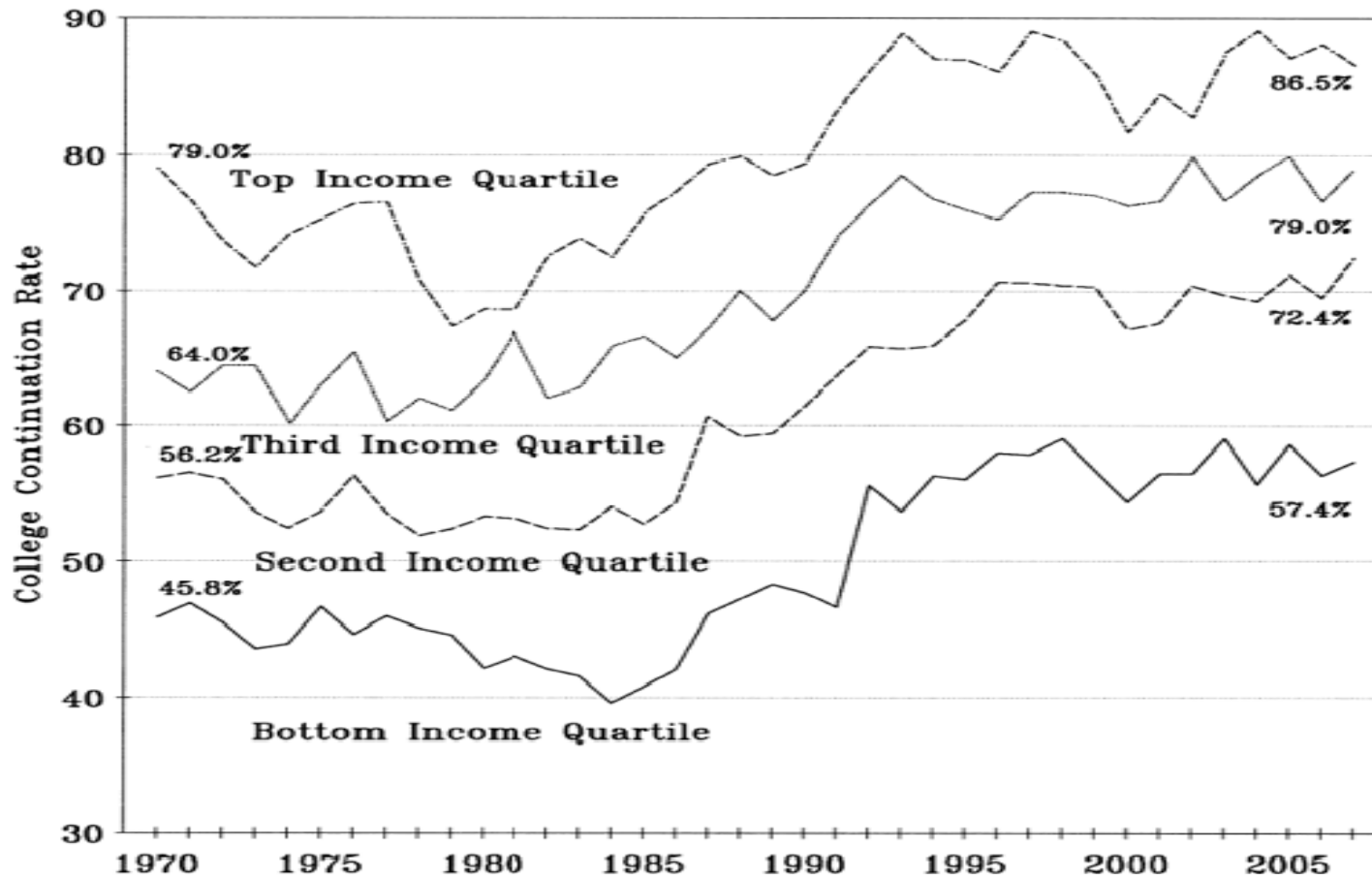
- Measures of college access
- Determinants of college access
- Challenges
- Similarities and differences with England
- Questions and discussion

Snapshot of higher education in the U.S.

- 4,200 accredited institutions (40% public/60% private)
- 18 million students
 - 75% in public institutions, 25% private
- 1.5 million bachelor's degrees
 - 700,000 sub-baccalaureate degrees/certificates
 - 700,000 post-baccalaureate degrees
- 3.4 million employees (1.3 million faculty)
- Expenditures: approx. \$325 billion in 2004-05 (£224 billion)

College participation by income

College Continuation Rates by Family Income Quartiles for Dependent 18 to 24 Year Old High School Graduates 1970 to 2007



> \$116,050

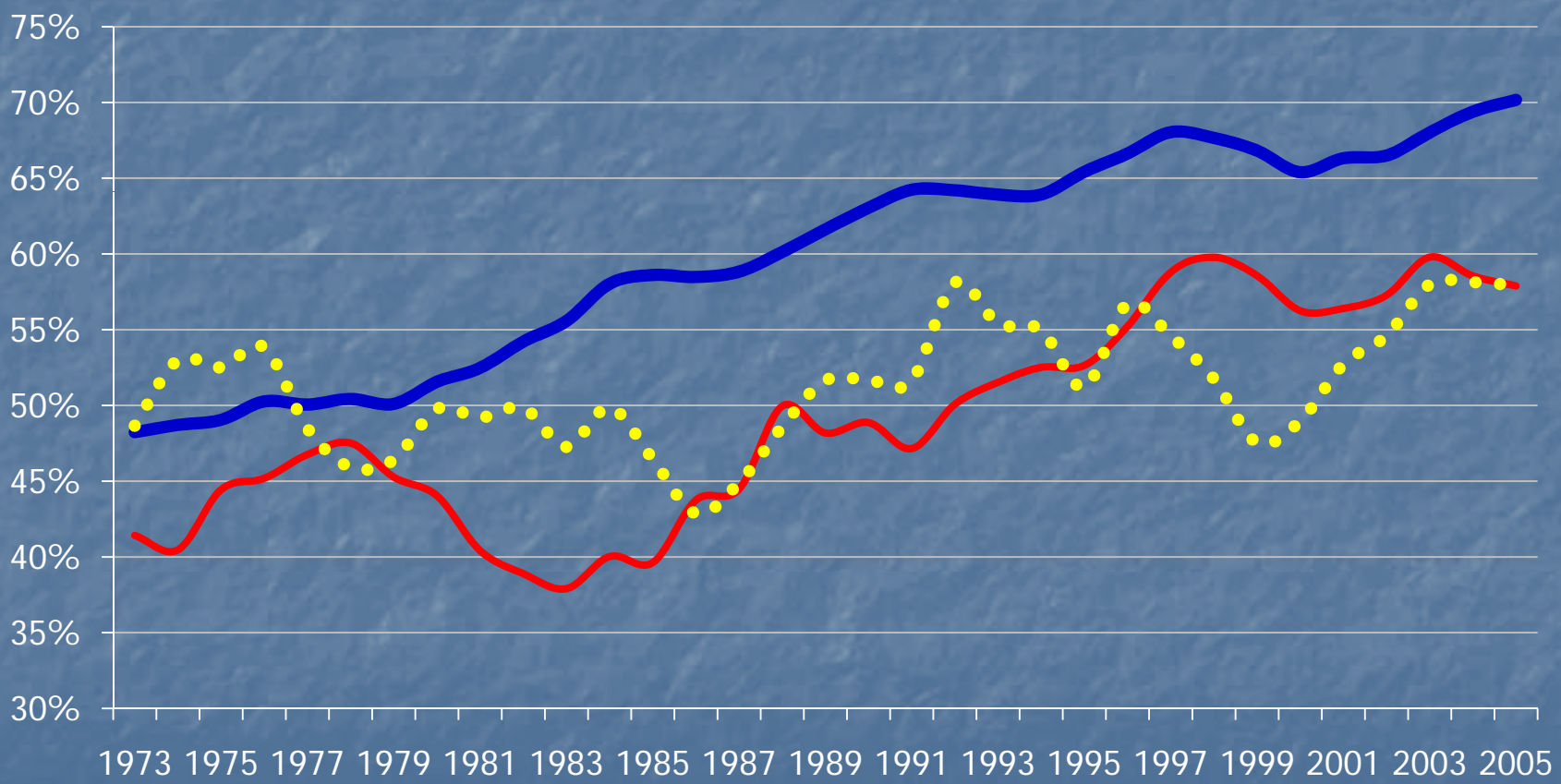
\$68,925 –
116,050

\$39,500 –
68,925

< \$39,500

College participation by race

% of HS graduates enrolling in college within 12 months of HS graduation

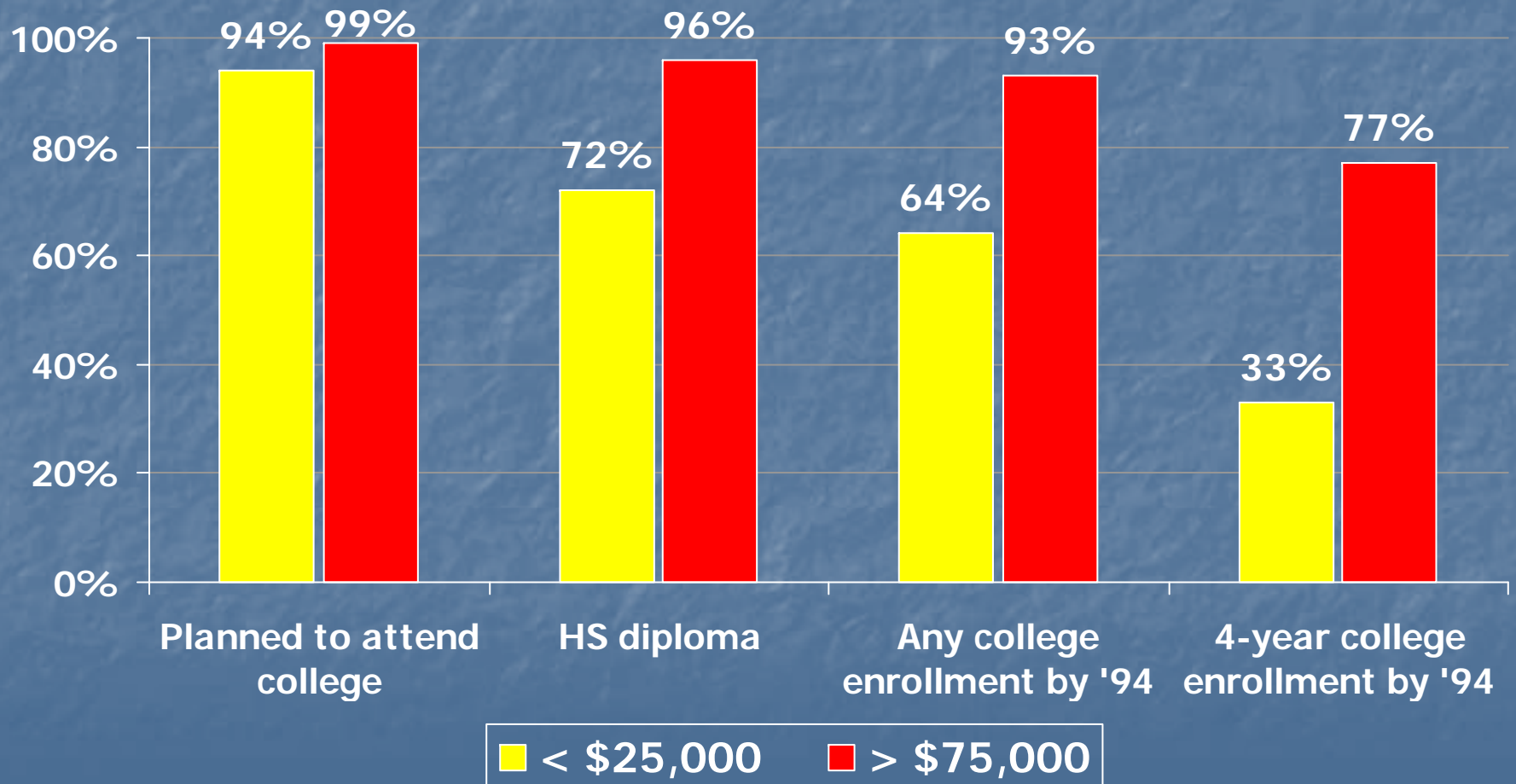


3-year rolling averages

— White — Black ••• Hispanic

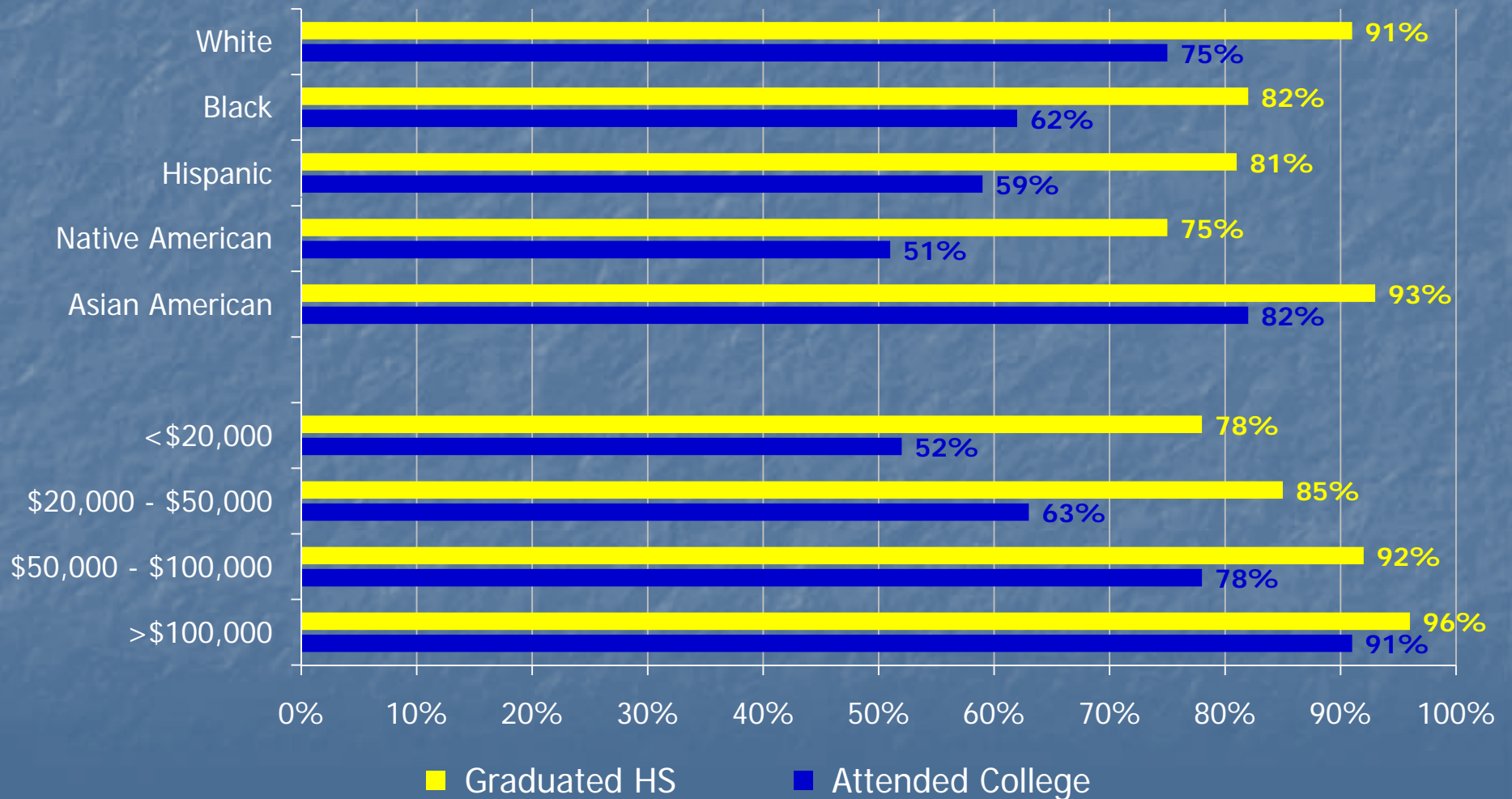
The educational pipeline

1988 8th graders by family income in 1991



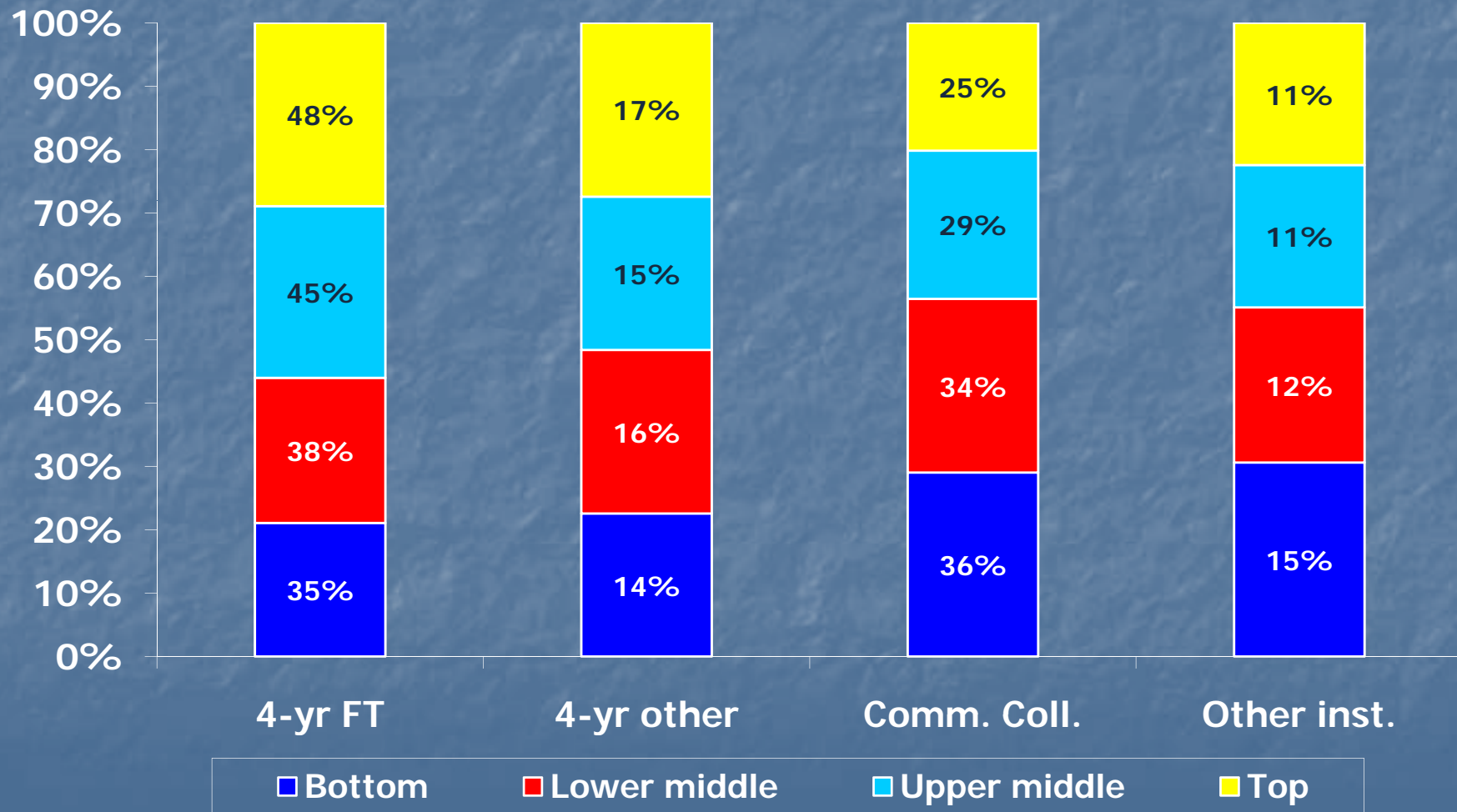
Most recent longitudinal data

2002 10th graders, as of 2006



Stratification in higher education

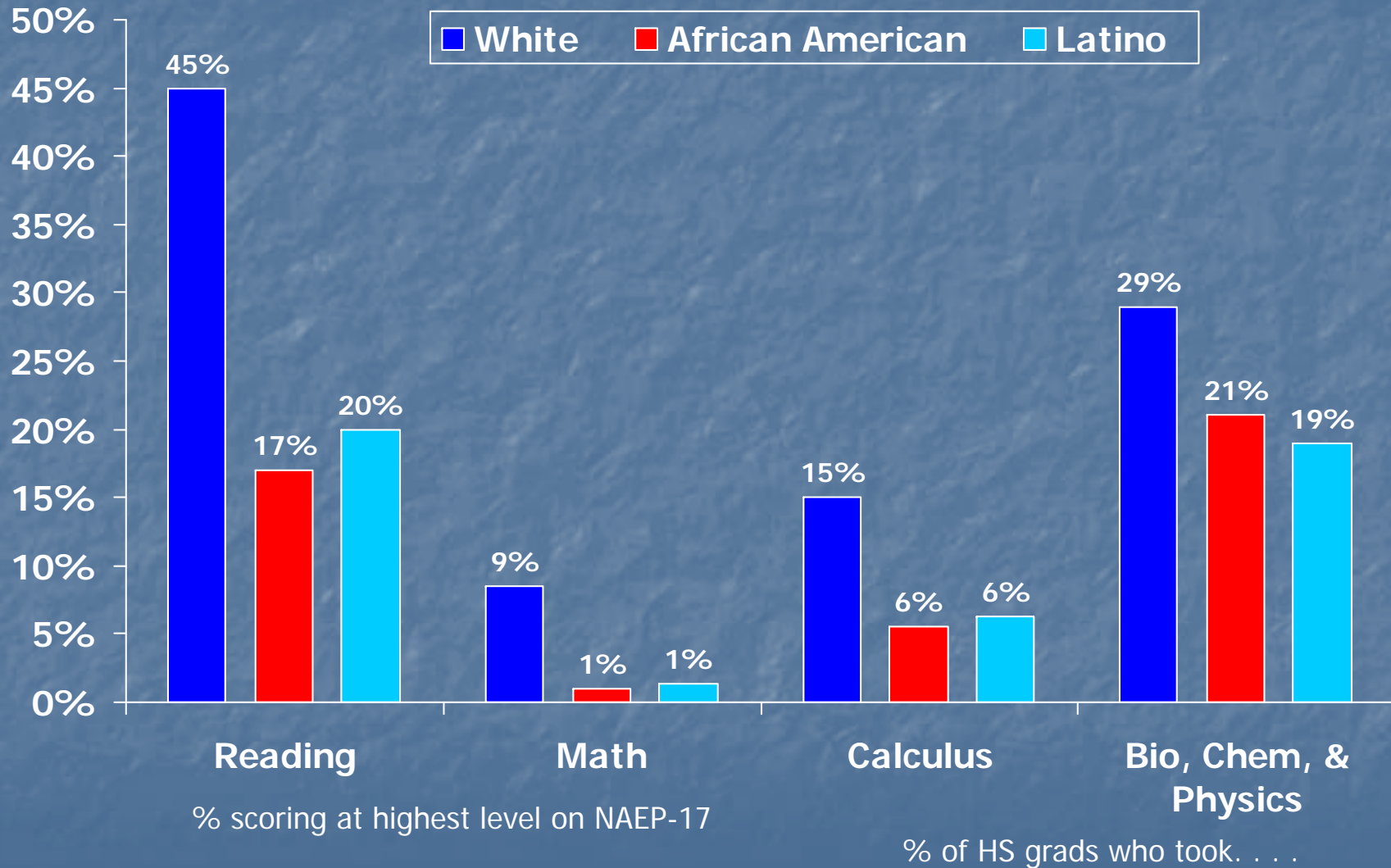
Distribution of each income quartile by sector and attendance
2003-2004 dependent students



Determinants of college access

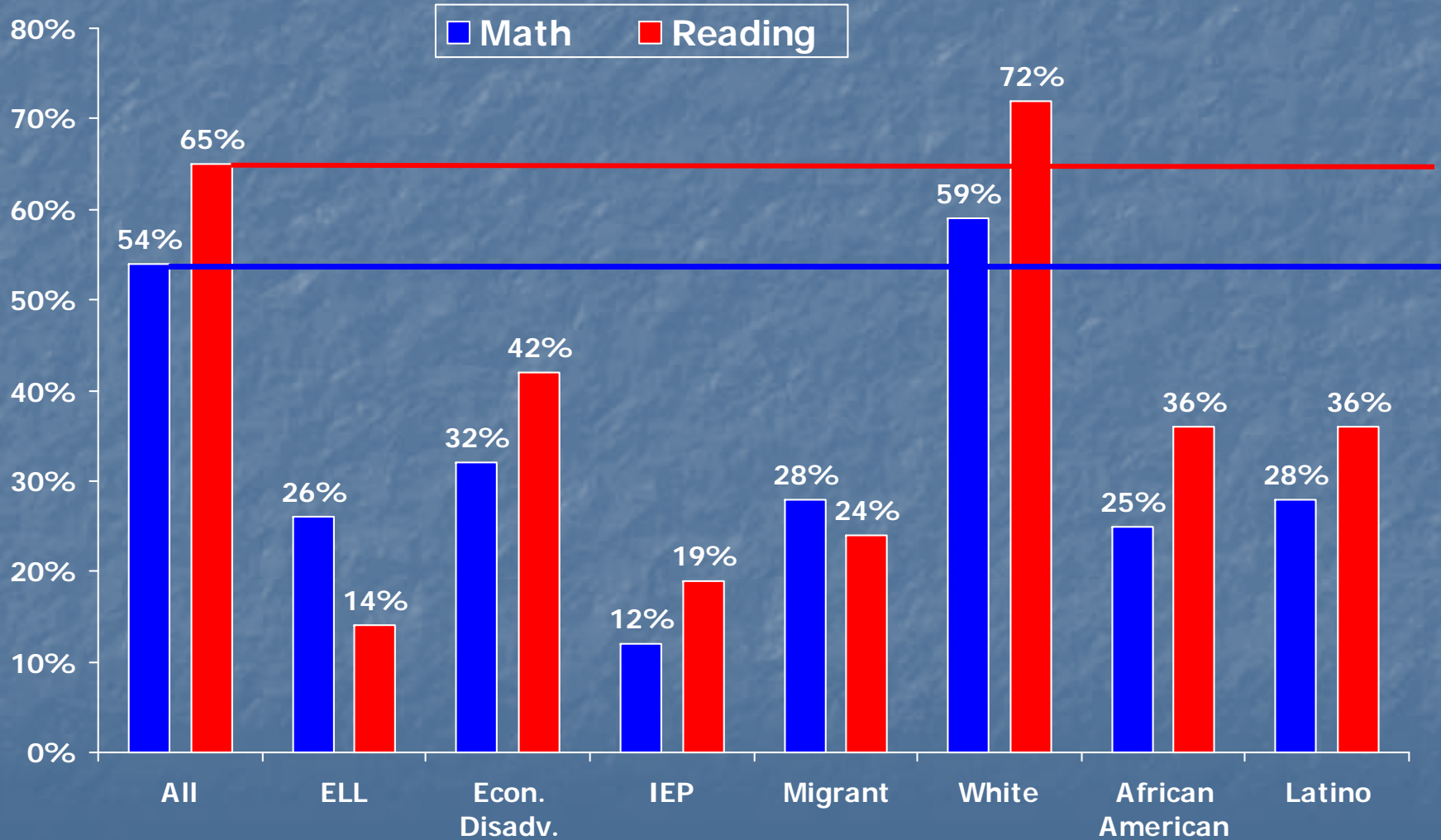
- Academic factors
- Financial factors
- Social and cultural factors

Academic achievement – U.S.



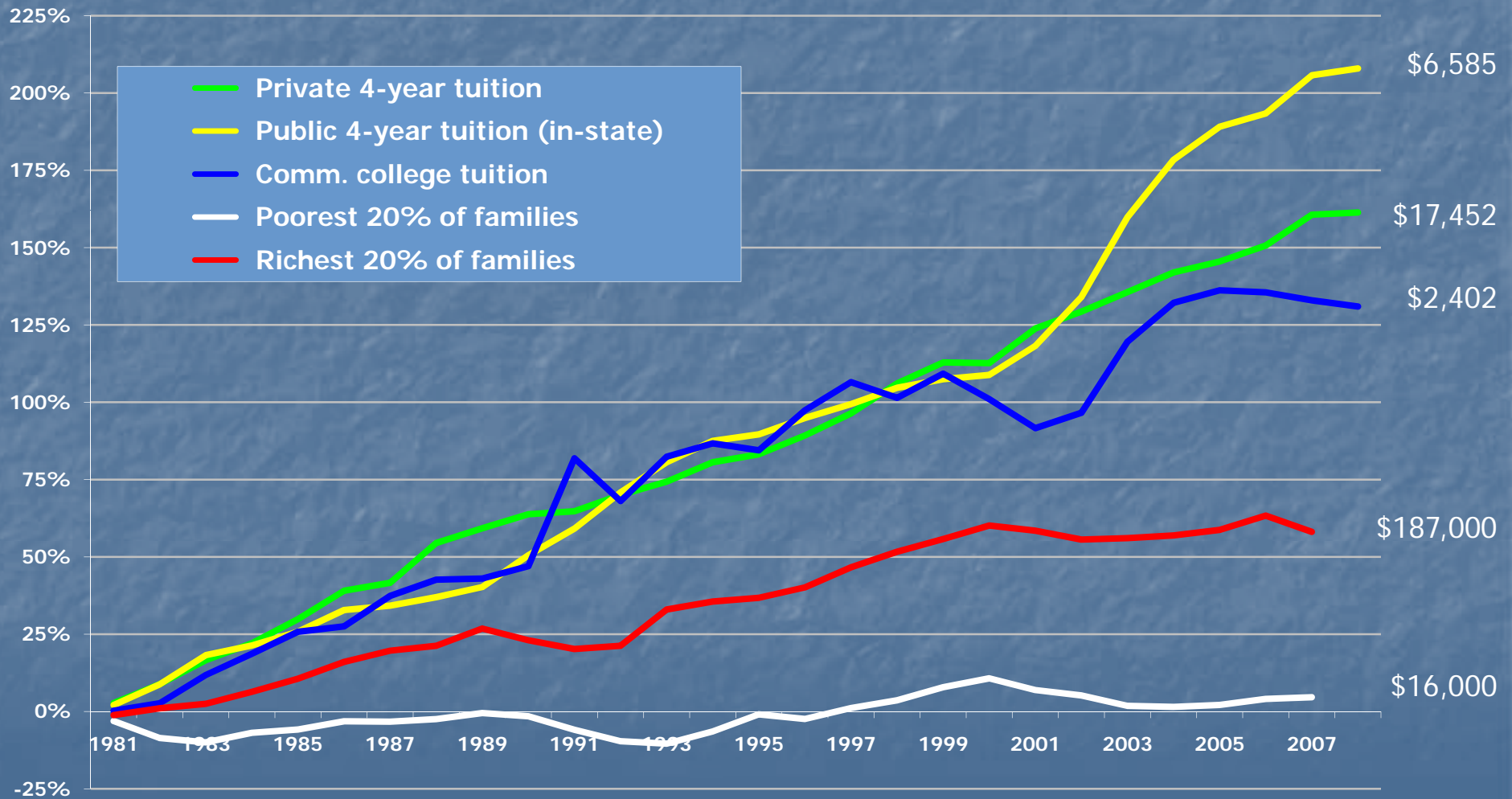
Academic achievement - PSSA

% scoring proficient or advanced (grade 11)



Changes in tuition prices and income

Increase since 1980, **constant** dollars



Fees and financial aid

2003-2004 undergraduates, billions of dollars

Students attending one institution
full time (7.1 million, ~50% of all UG)

Fees paid (for all)

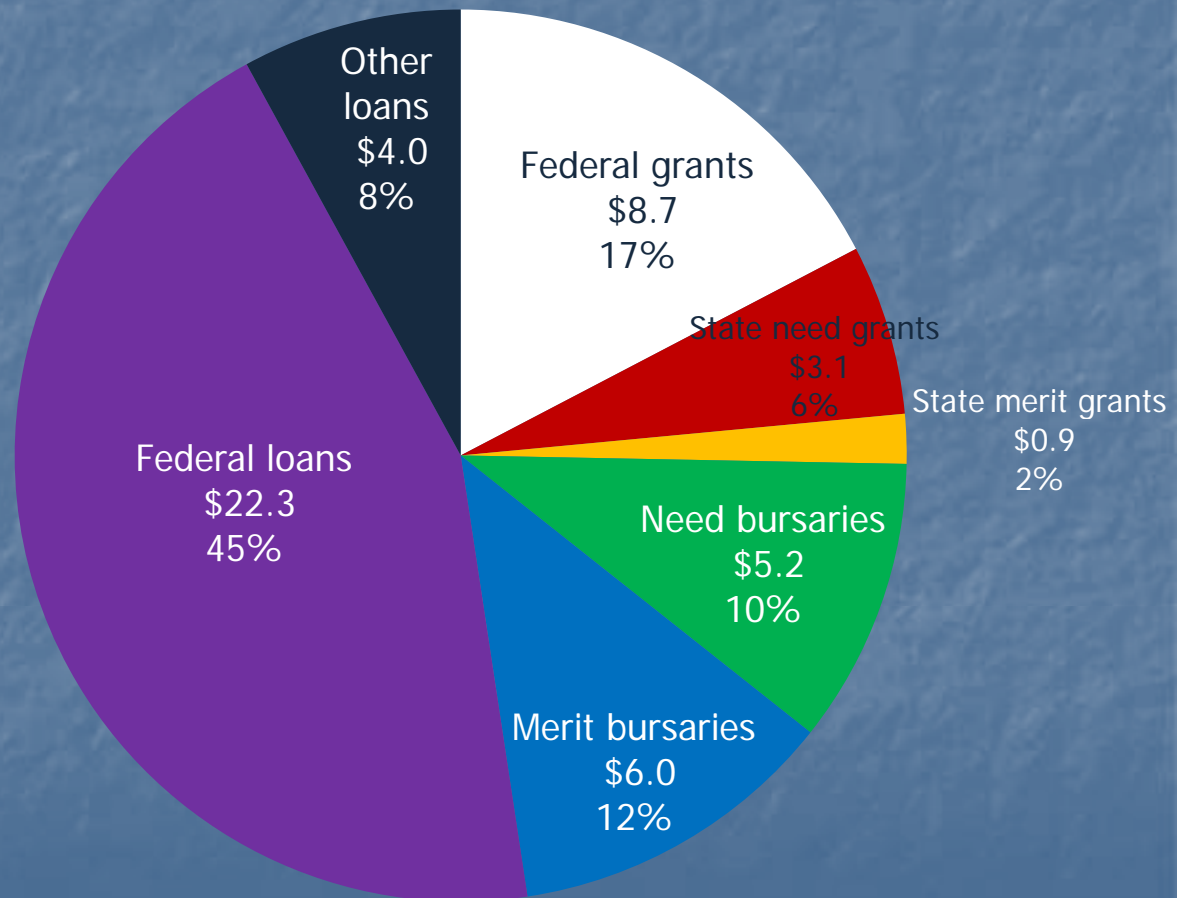
Total: \$123B (£85B)

Mean: \$17,150 (£11,828)

Financial aid

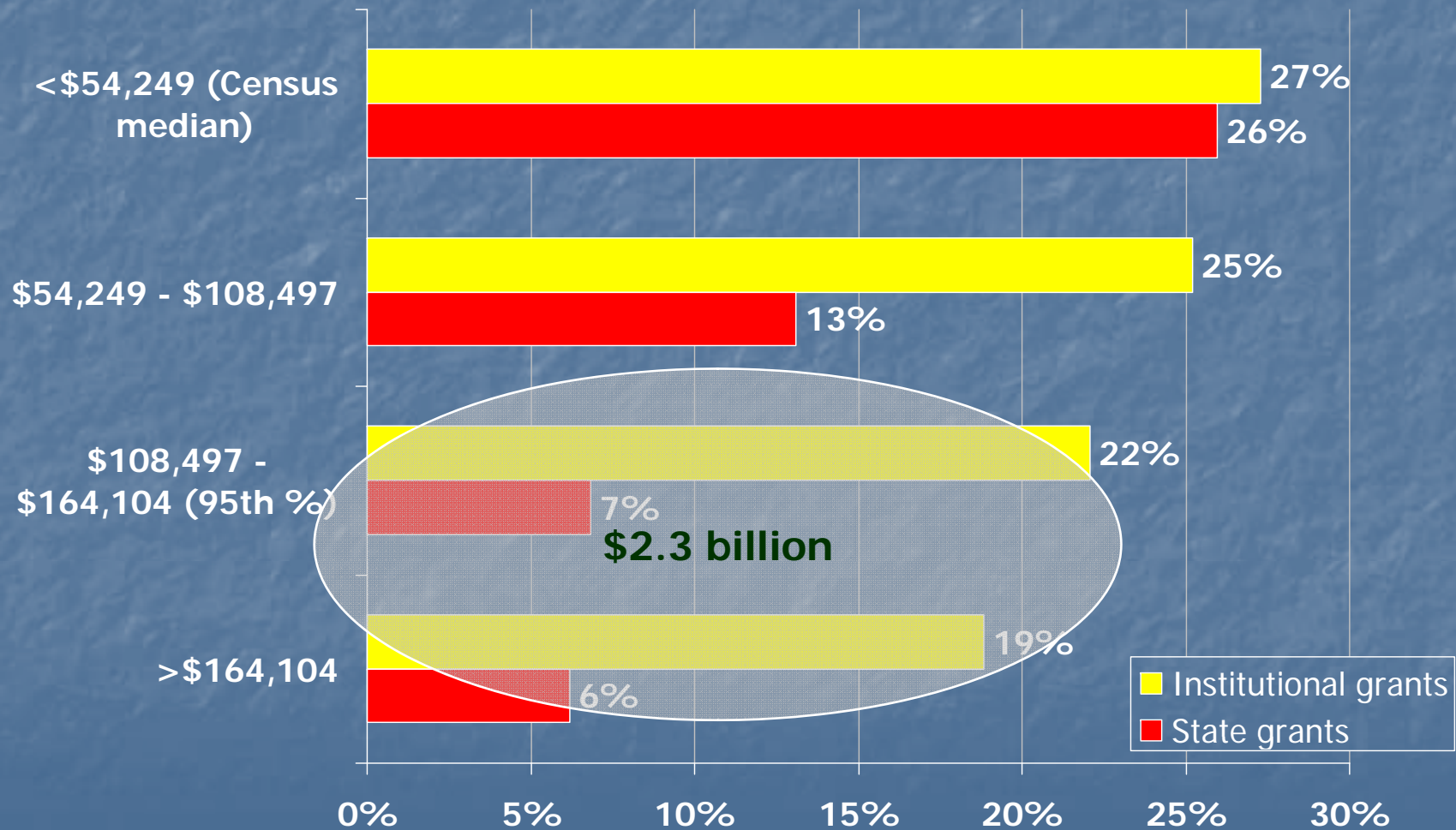
Total: \$50B (£34B)

Mean: \$7,000 (£4,827)



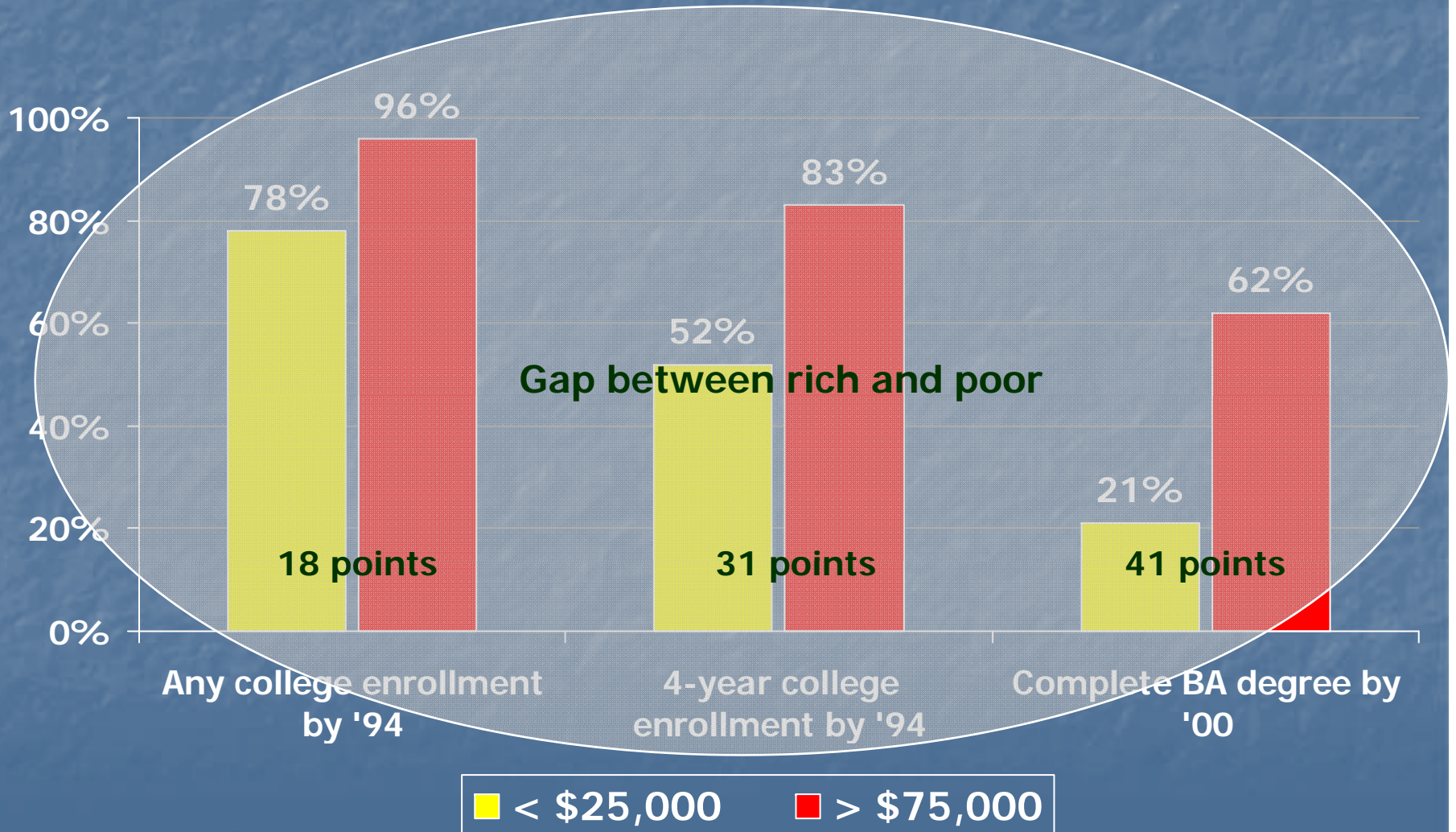
Grants to high-income students

Proportion of dependent students receiving grants, by income group (2003-2004)



The educational pipeline – *college-qualified students*

1988 8th graders by family income in 1991



Financial vs. Academic Barriers

Proportion of 1992 High School Graduates Attending College by 1994

Socioeconomic Status Quartile

		Socioeconomic Status Quartile	
		Lowest	Highest
Achievement Quartile	Lowest	36%	77%
	Highest	78%	97%

Challenges

- Closing the gap in academic preparation
- Restraining the growth in tuition fees
- Funding for targeted financial aid programs
- Overcoming the notion of higher education as purely a private good
- Changing demographics

England and the U.S.

■ Differences in England

- One, rather than 51, sources of public funding
- Government control of fee caps
- One loan provider
- Maintenance grants that are structured as entitlements, with strong government support
- Politically powerful unions (staff and students)

■ Similarities

- Competition for government resources
- Some constraints on student contributions