



TRENDS IN ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Themes



ACCESS

The UNC system must continue its proud heritage of access and student diversity.



AFFORDABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

Ensure a UNC education is within the financial means of all in the state.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Increase degree attainment and ensure value and relevance for students.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Contribute to the state's economy and job creation.



EXCELLENT AND DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS

Help institutions achieve excellence within individual missions.



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Outline

1. Why access and student success?
2. Trends in higher education access.
3. Trends in student success.
4. Policy implications.



The Puzzle

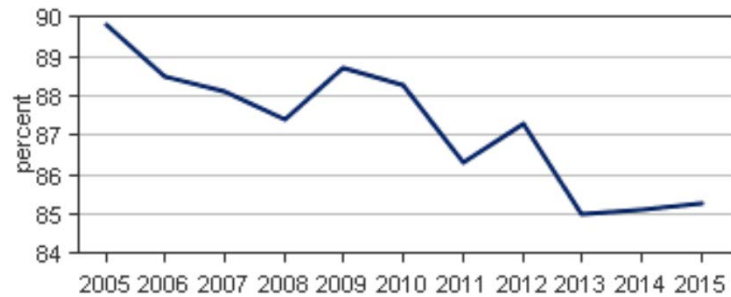
- North Carolina is one of the fastest growing states and state economies in the country.
- We have a top state university system with comparatively low tuition and above average completion rates.

Yet...



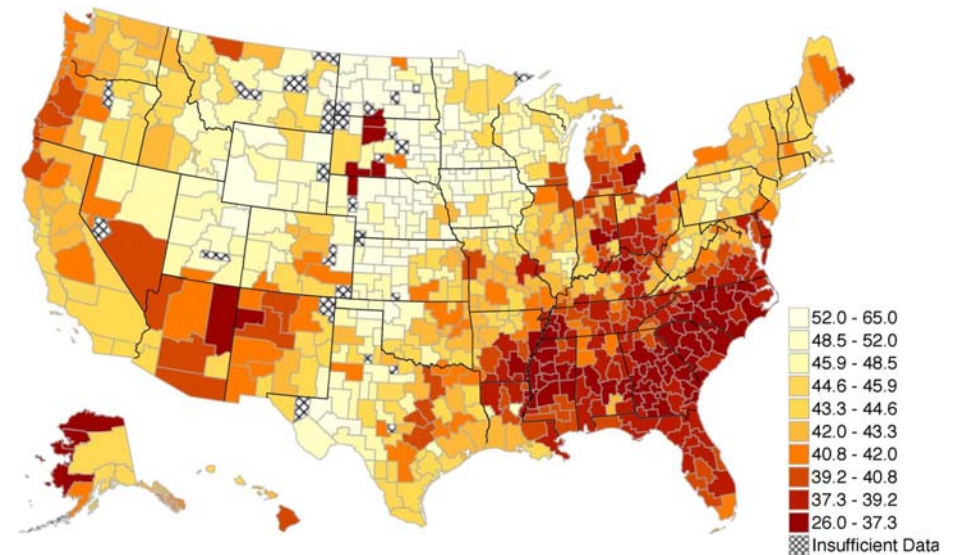
The Puzzle

North Carolina
Per Capita Income as a Percent of the
United States



Rank: 39th

The Geography of Upward Mobility in the United States
Mean Child Percentile Rank for Parents at 25th Percentile (Y_{25})



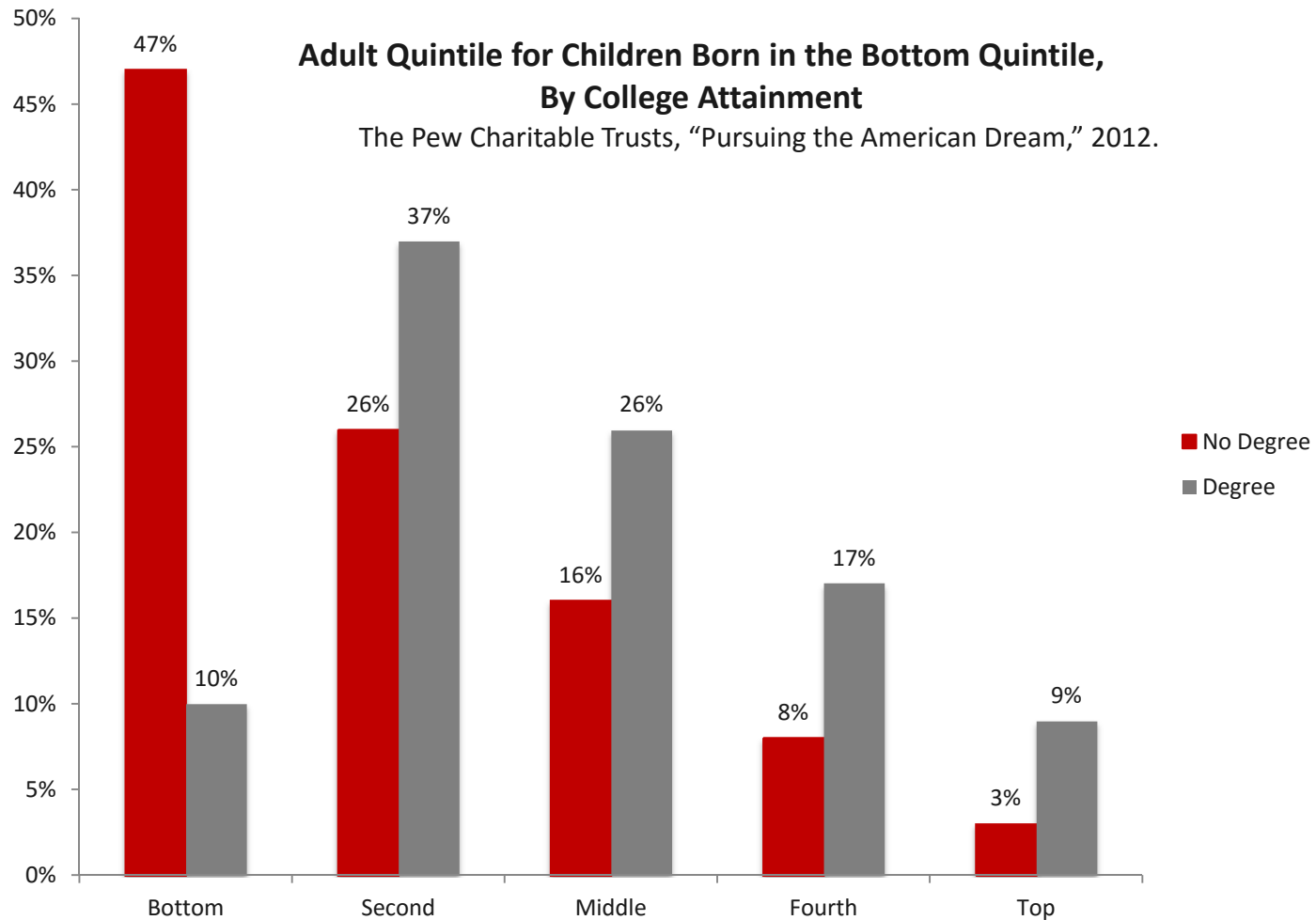
Note: Lighter Color = More Absolute Upward Mobility

**The UNC System did not cause this puzzle.
But improving access and student success can help solve it.**



Bureau of Economic Analysis and
Equality of Opportunity Project.

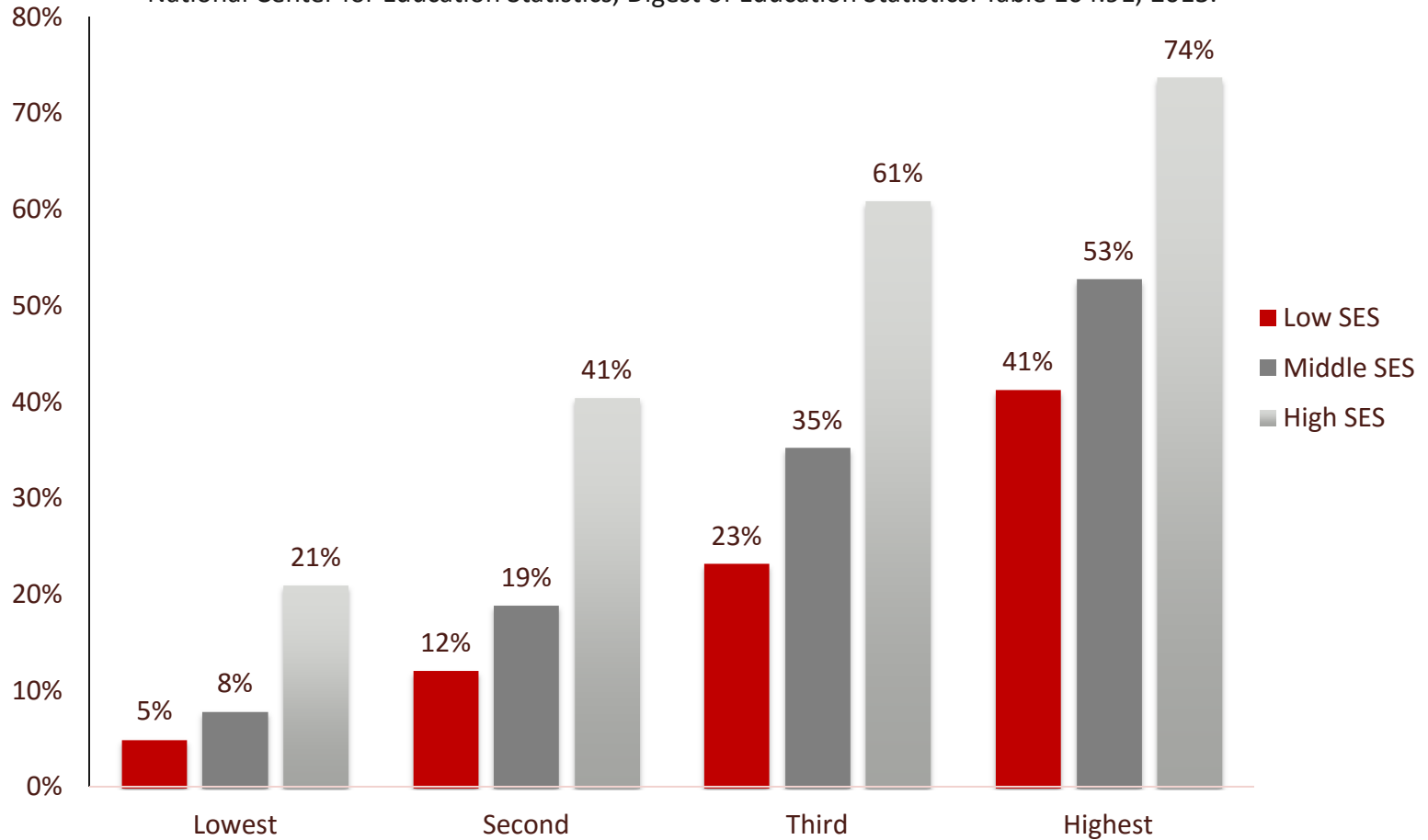
Higher Education Can Be a “Mighty Engine”



But It Leaves Many Behind

BA Attainment in 2012 by High School SES and Math Achievement

National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics: Table 104.91, 2015.



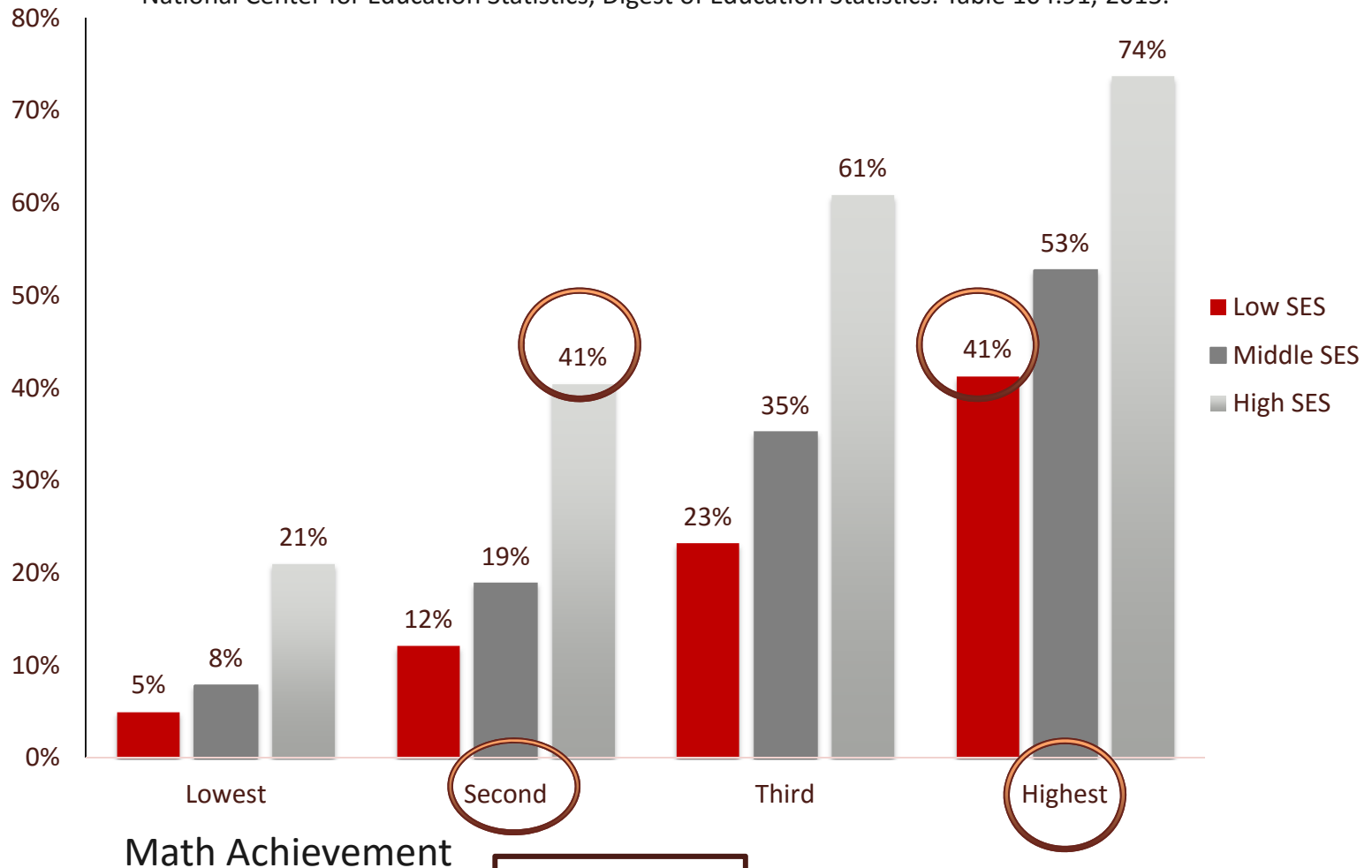
Math Achievement



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Math Achievement



The Story

- The country has made gains in access, but stubborn gaps remain (nationally and in NC).
- Nationally: graduation rates have declined slightly in recent years, and demographic gaps are pronounced.
- UNC System: completion rates are above average, but there is room for improvement.





ACCESS

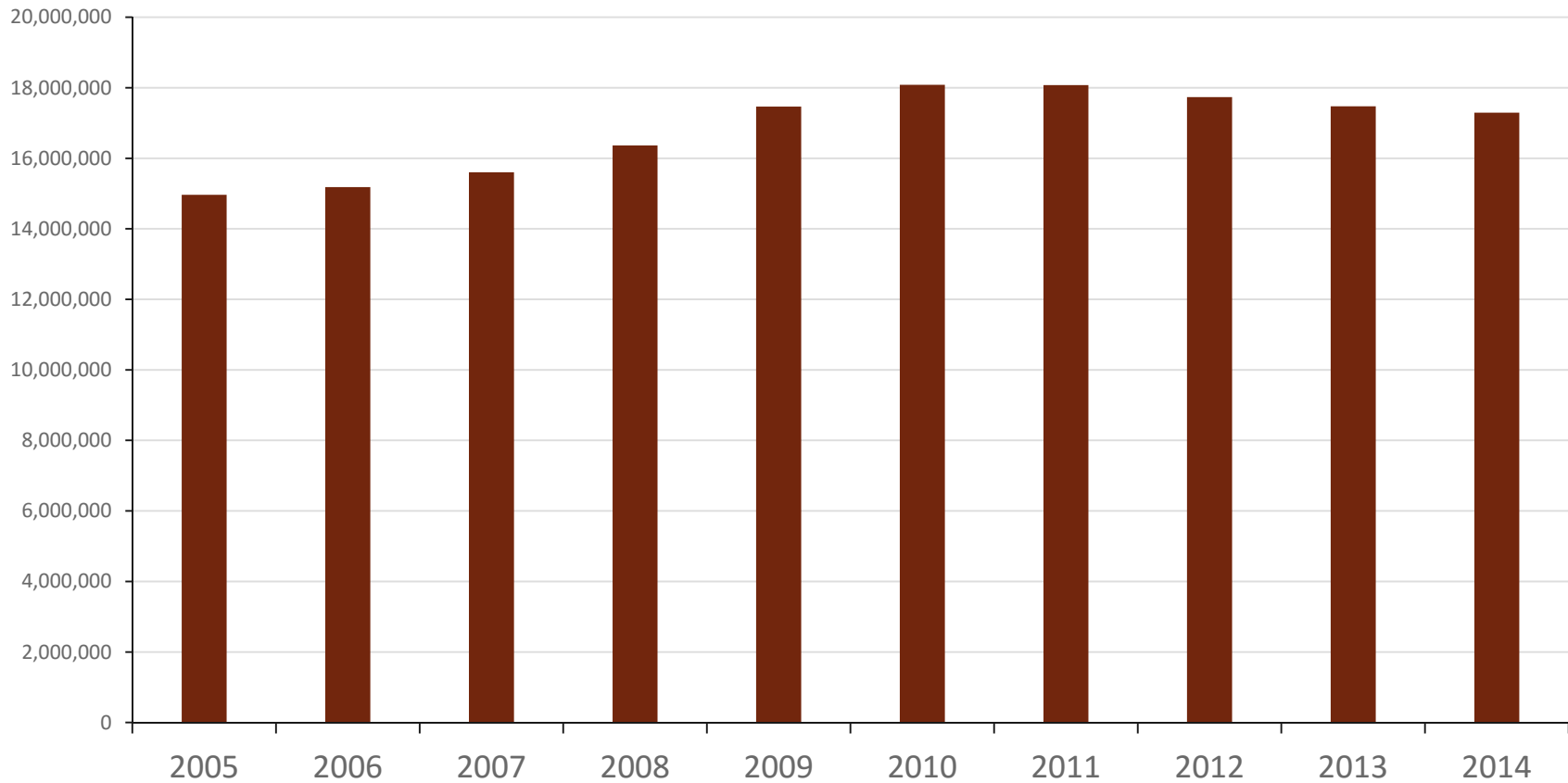
Measuring Access

- Enrollment growth?
- Does UNC System reflect the state as a whole?
- Participation gaps between groups of qualified students?



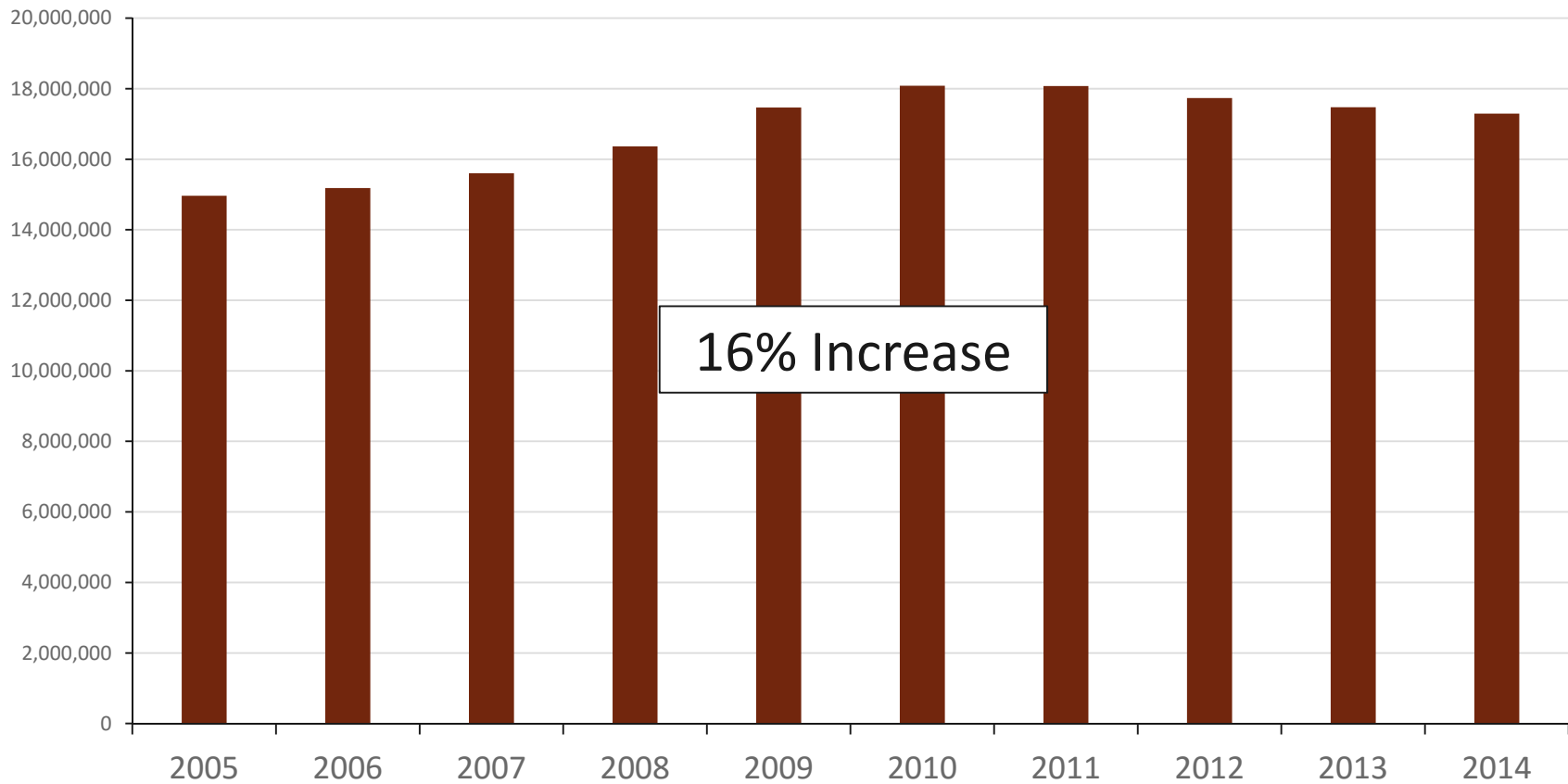
National: Enrollment Growth

Total Undergraduate Fall Enrollment in Degree-granting Institutions

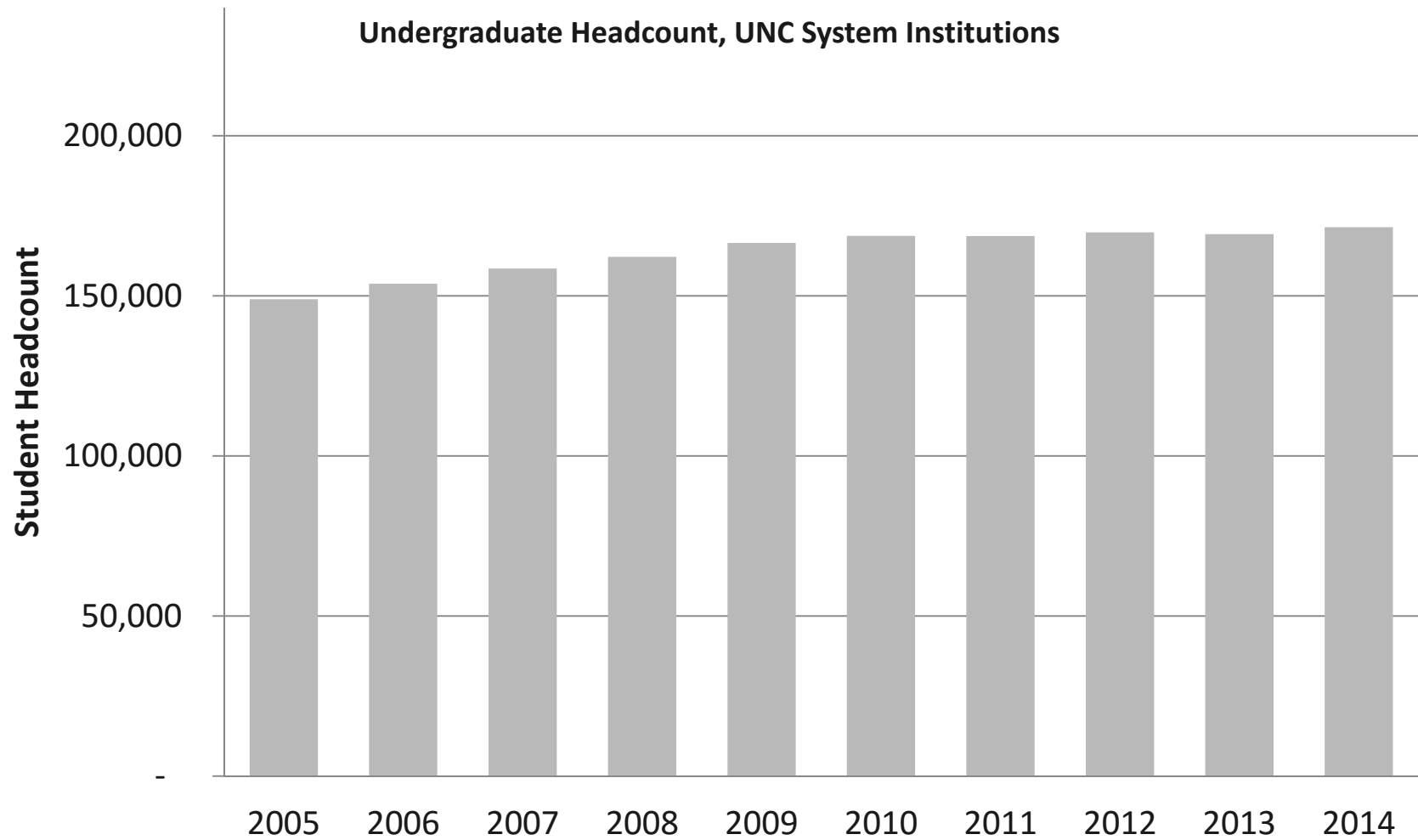


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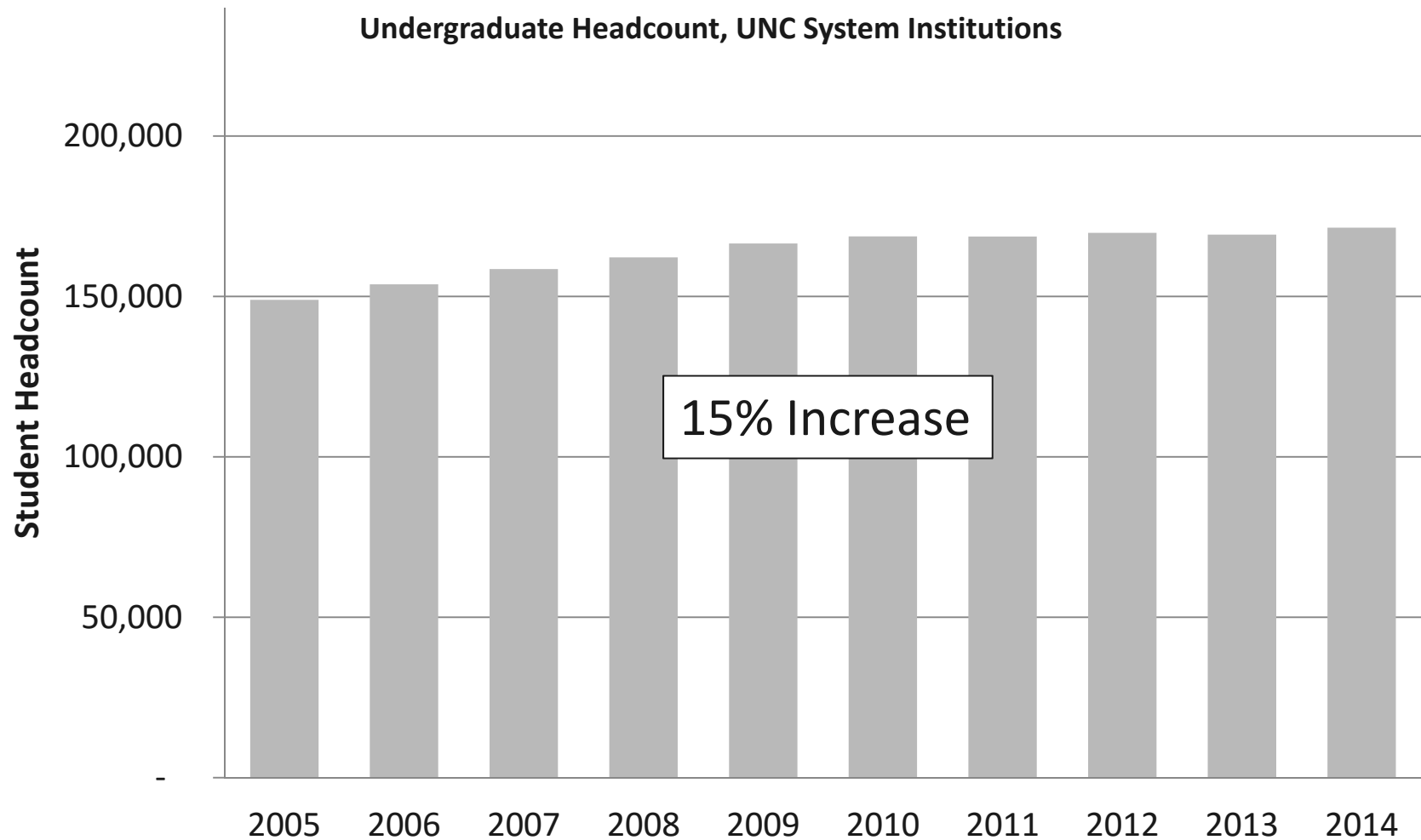
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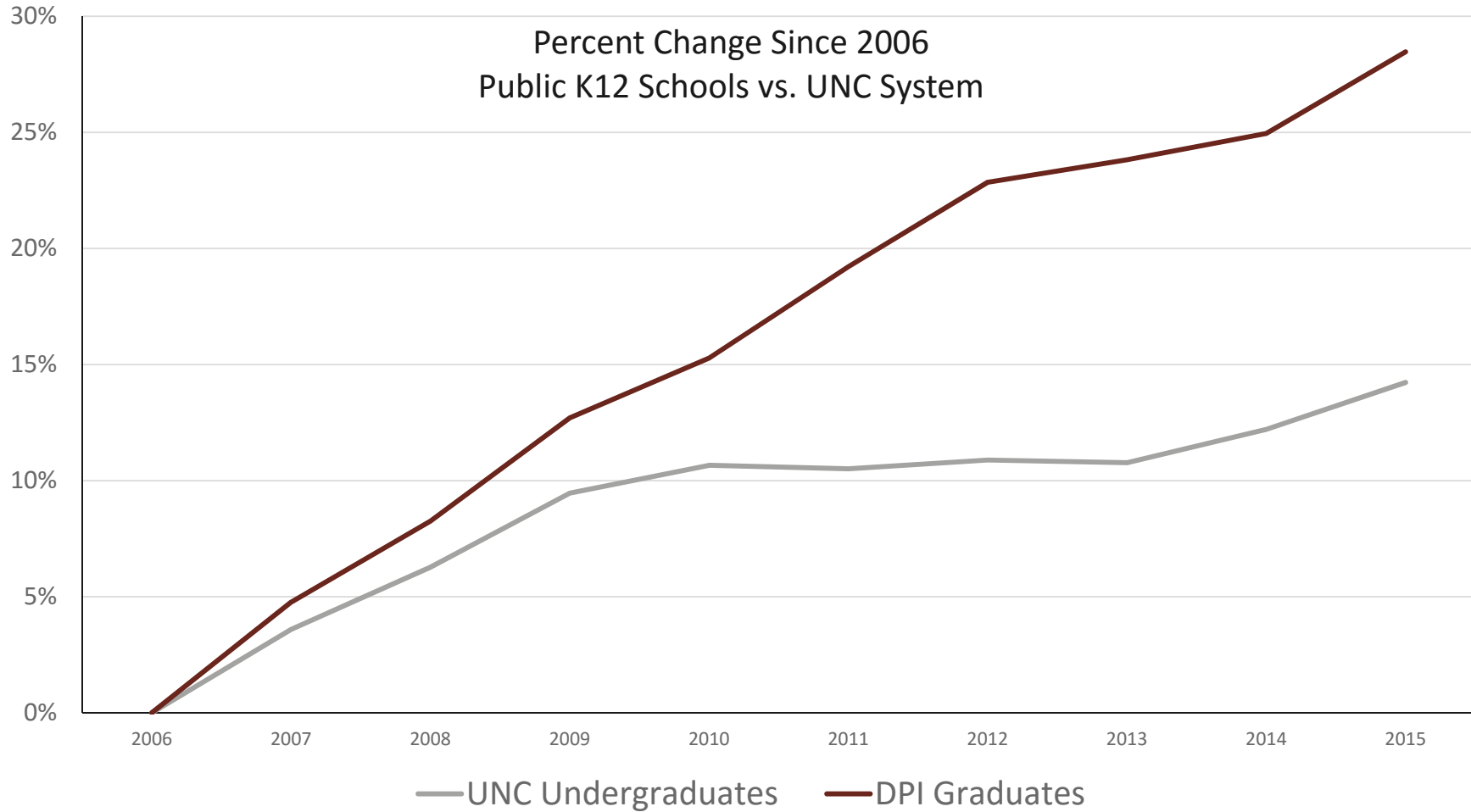
UNC: Enrollment Growth



UNC: Enrollment Growth



Is the System Keeping Pace?



DPI Statistical Profile, Table 12.2 and
UNC Dashboards.

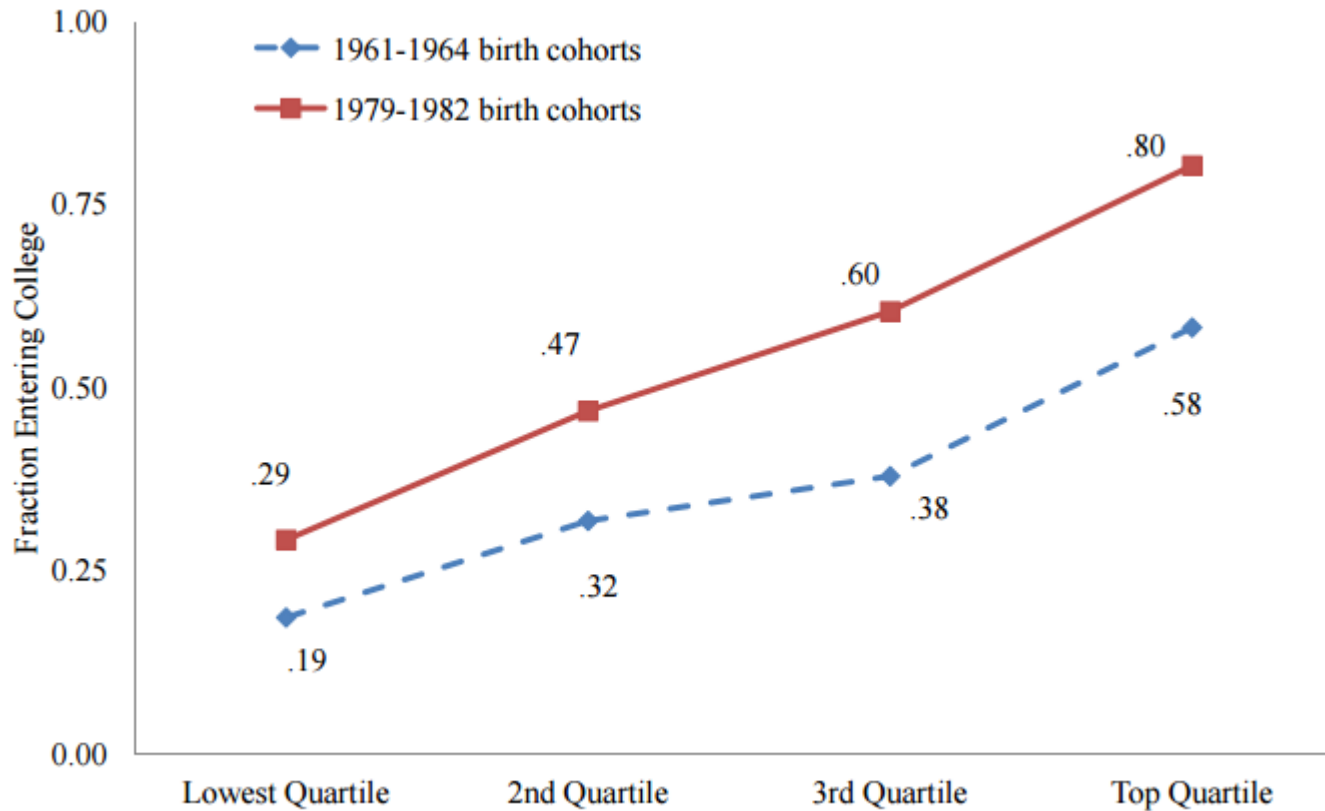
K-12 Growth Marked Among Traditionally Underserved Groups

- From 2006 to 2015, the number of DPI graduates in each category increased:
 - Overall – 28.5%
 - White – 9.8%
 - Black – 20.0%
 - **Hispanic – 239%**
- Low-income:
 - 2000 to 2014, number receiving free or reduced price lunch **grew by 330,000 (or 70 percent)**



National: Persistent Gaps in College Entry by Income

Martha Bailey and Susan Dynarski, "Gains and Gaps: Changing Inequality in U.S. College Entry and Completion," National Bureau of Economic Research, 2011.



Does UNC System Reflect State as a Whole?

	2015 Undergraduate In-State Headcount (Under 34)	North Carolina Population (2014): Age 18-34	Participation Gap
American Indian	1.0%	1.2%	-0.2%
Asian	4.2%	2.9%	1.3%
Black	21.9%	22.3%	-0.4%
Latino/a	6.1%	11.0%	-4.8%
Two or More Races	3.7%	2.3%	1.4%
White	60.5%	56.2%	4.3%
Low Income (under \$50K)	40%	49%	-10%
Low Income (under \$25K)	20%	24%	-4%
Rural	30%	38%	-8%
Tier 1 County	11%	12%	-1%
Tier 2 County	27%	35%	-8%
Male	45%	51%	-6%



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- Of the 1,114 graduates from GEARUP high schools in 2014:
 - 170 (15%) went to UNC
 - 357 (32%) went to NCCCS
 - 110 (10%) went to other IHE
 - 477 (43%) didn't enroll anywhere.
 - 133 of them (12% of graduating students) met UNC MARs.



Obstacles to Access

- Academic preparation.
- Information about higher education options, financial aid, and “showing up.”
- Costs of attendance.
- Adult students: work and family commitments.



Caveats

- Access without attention to success can have unintended consequences (repayment problems, reduced productivity).
- Some “obstacles” are important to human capital production (e.g., academic rigor and readiness).





STUDENT SUCCESS

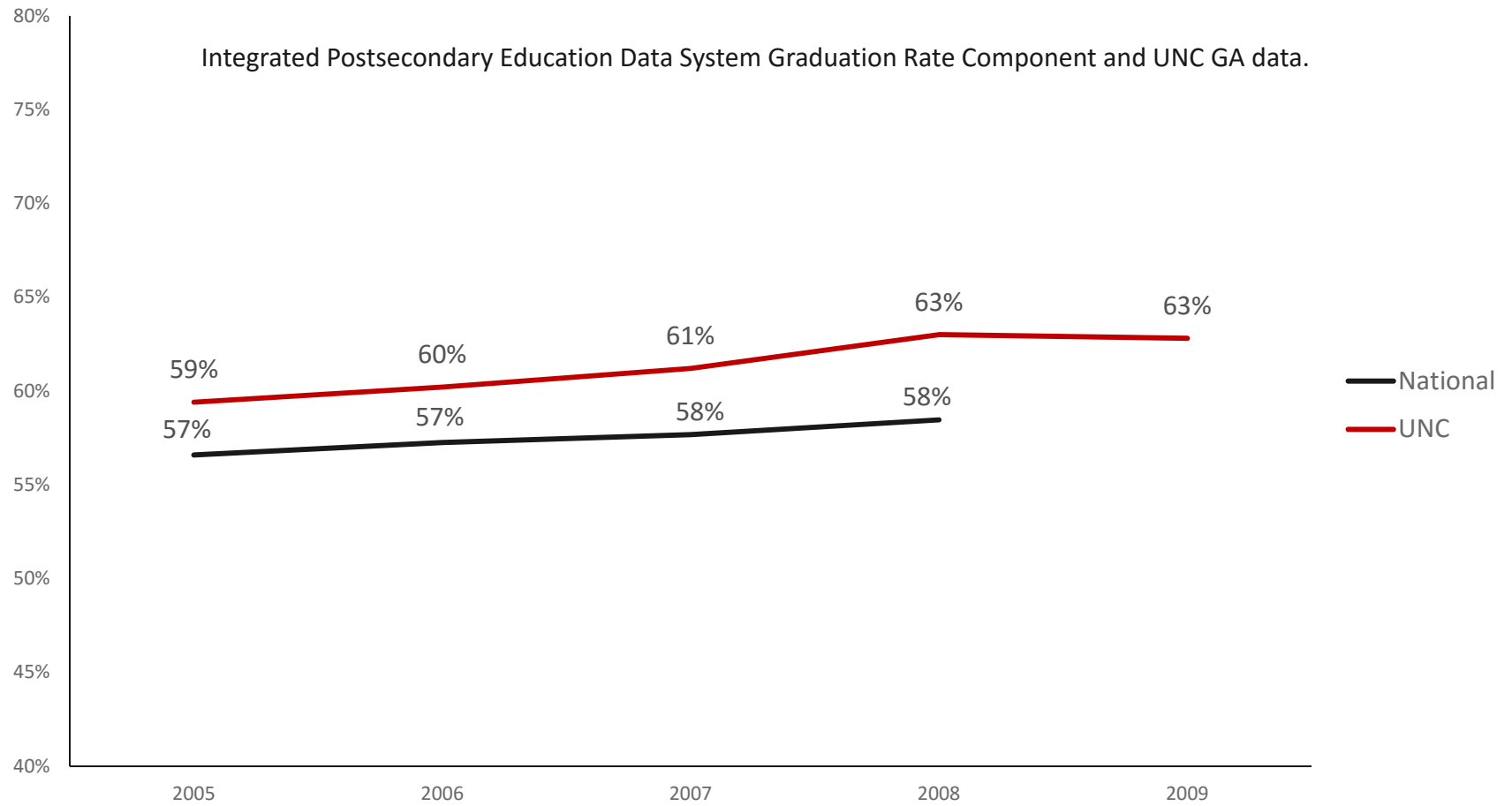
Measuring Student Success

- Retention and completion rates?
- Time to degree?
- Student learning?
- Labor market success?
- Quality of life, well-being, satisfaction?



UNC is a Leader on Completion Rates

Six-year Graduation Rate (Federal)

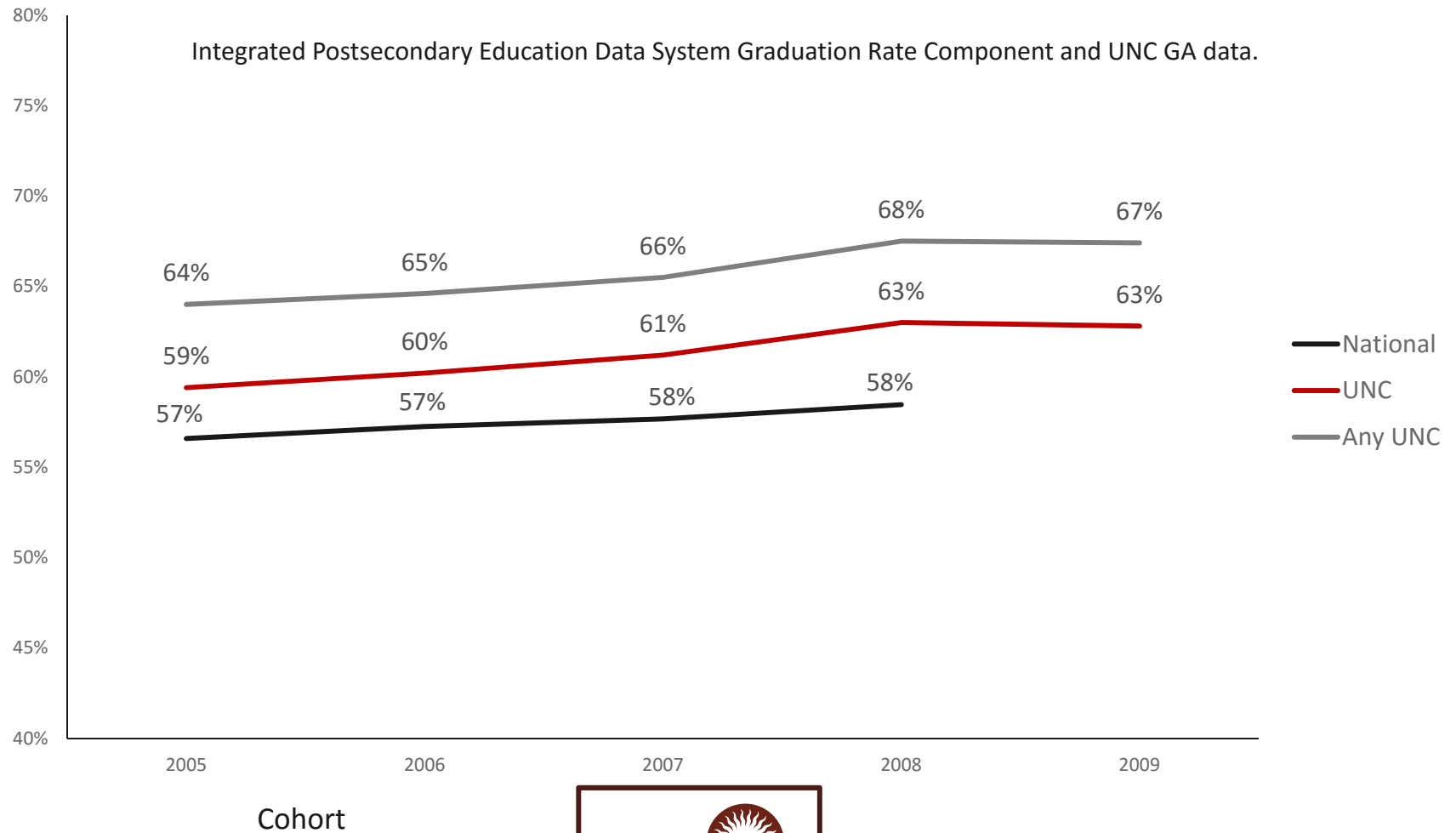


Cohort



UNC is a Leader on Completion Rates

Six-year Graduation Rate (Federal vs. Any UNC)



Timely Degree Attainment?

- The good news:
 - 4-year graduation rate across UNC System is 10 percentage points higher than national average for public colleges.



IPEDS

Timely Degree Attainment?

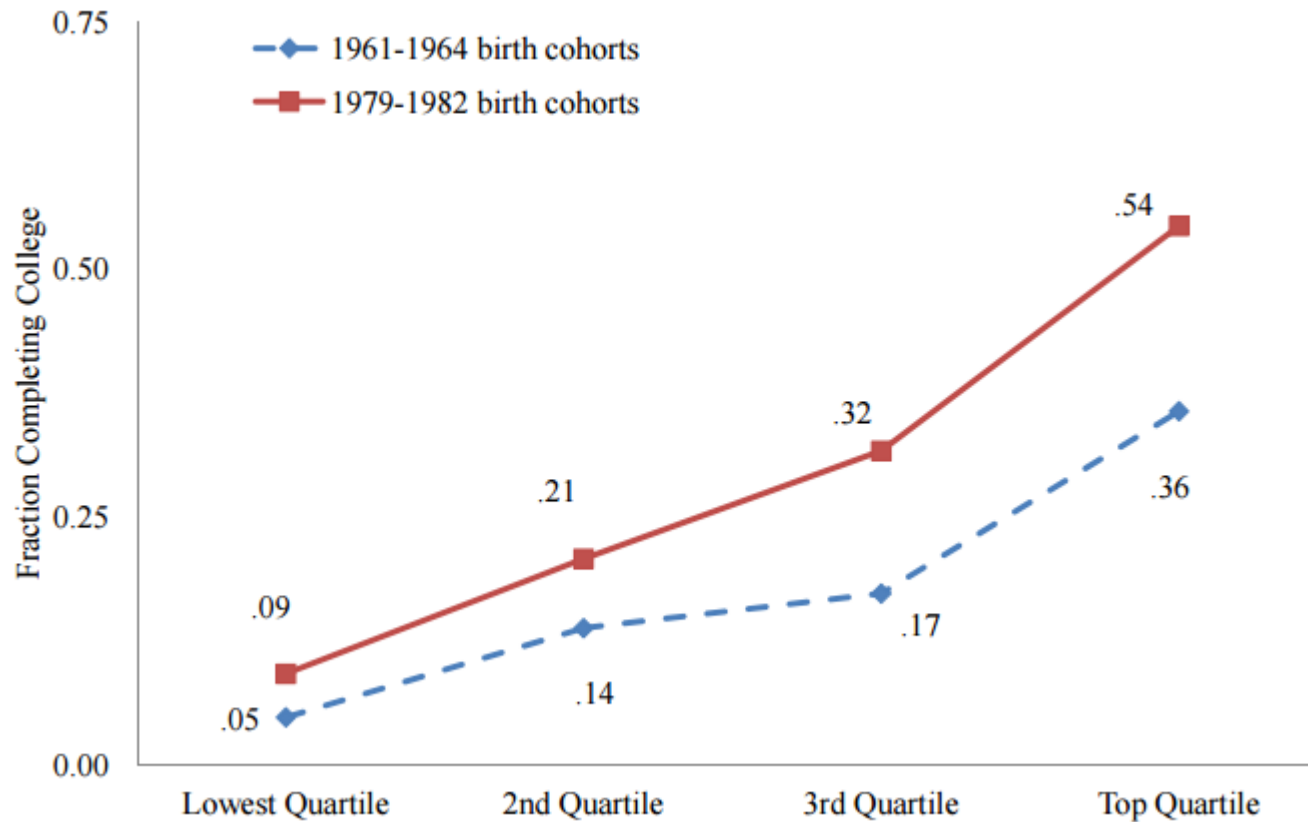
- The good news:
 - 4-year graduation rate across UNC System is 10 percentage points higher than national average for public colleges.
- The not-so-good news: 4-year rates are low.
 - Nationally: 34 percent.
 - UNC (Any): 44 percent.



IPEDS

National: Gaps in College Completion By Family Income Has Grown (1960s Cohort vs. 1980s Cohort)

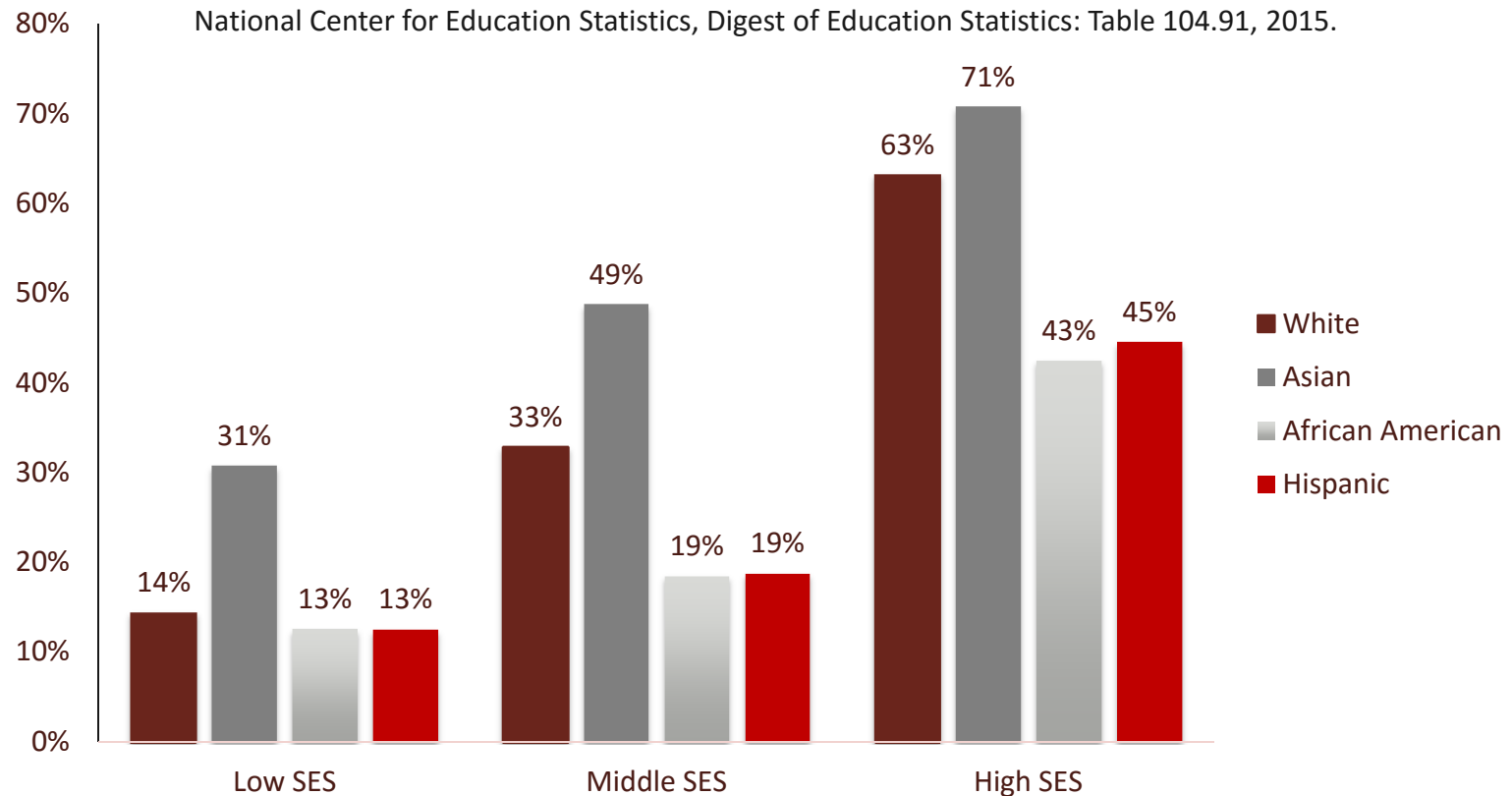
Bailey and Dynarski, "Gains and Gaps," National Bureau of Economic Research, 2011.



National: Gaps By Race and Ethnicity

BA Attainment in 2012 by Race and Ethnicity and High School SES (H.S. Sophomores in 2002)

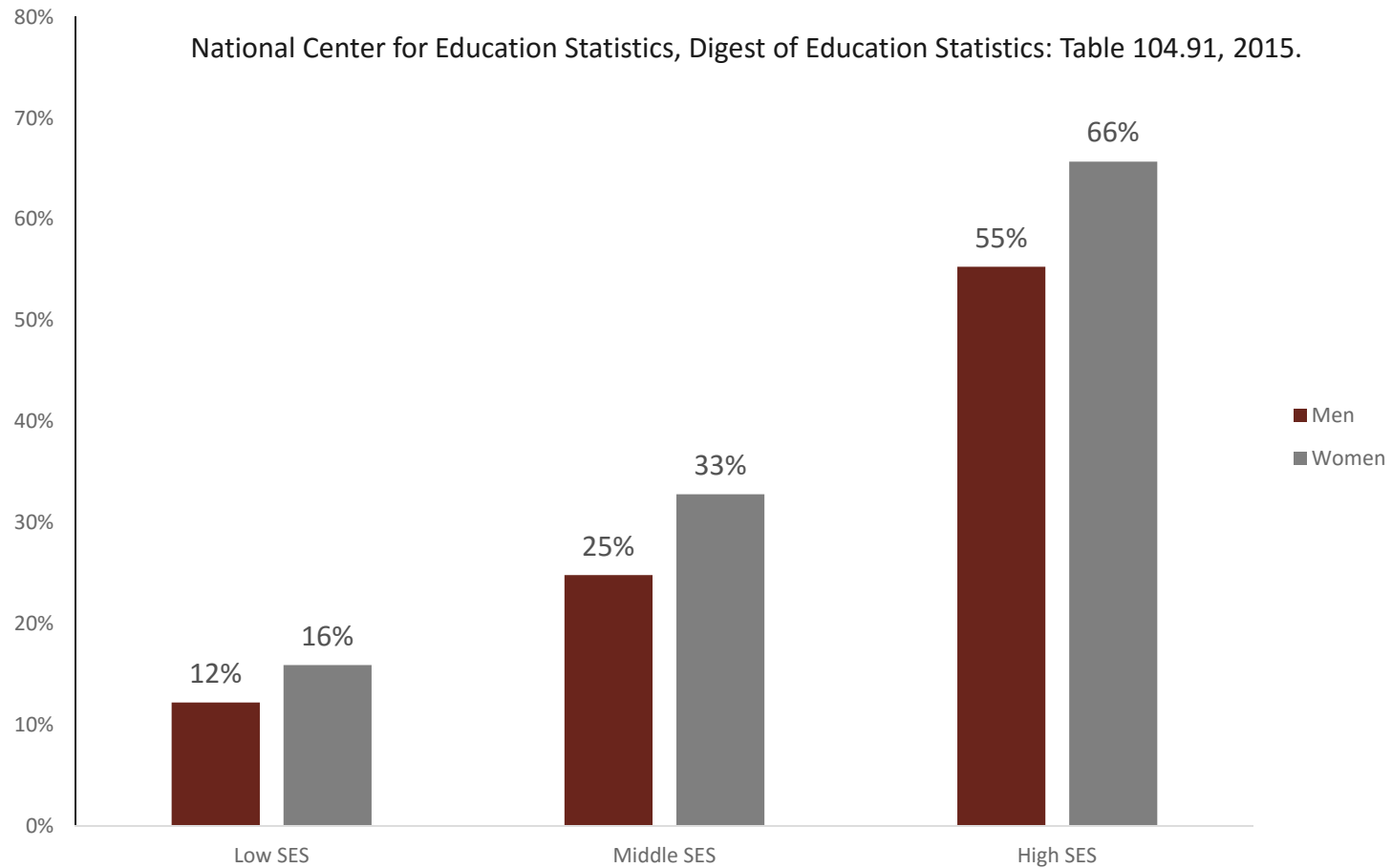
National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics: Table 104.91, 2015.



National: Gender Gap

BA Attainment in 2012, by SES and Gender (H.S. Sophomores in 2002)

National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics: Table 104.91, 2015.



UNC: Graduation Gaps Mirror National Picture

		Gap
Pell Grant Recipient: 60%	Did not receive Pell: 72%	-12 pp
Minority: 55%	Non-minority: 72%	-17 pp
Men: 63%	Women: 71%	-8 pp

UNC GA Data: six-year graduation rates by selected characteristics, 2009 cohort.



Other Outcomes of Interest

- Degrees per 100 FTE.
- Student learning.
- Labor market outcomes:
 - 66% are employed or in graduate school in NC
 - Mean Annual Wages \$37,320
- Measures of well-being (Gallup-Purdue Index).



State Policies to Improve Access and Success

- Improve college readiness.
- Need-based financial aid.
- Outreach and information to prospective students.
- Performance-based funding.



Caveats: Navigating the Tension Between Access and Success

- Simply counting paper credentials can create perverse incentives.
- Focusing only on graduation rates can lead to gaming, not gains in attainment.

