



Astra Academy: The Importance of the Your First College Year Survey

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Presentation Overview

- Introduction (5 Minutes)
- The Importance of the Your First College Year Survey (35 Minutes)
- Wrap-Up (5 Minutes)
- Comments and Questions (15 Minutes)

About Ad Astra

- Ad Astra is a course scheduling and enrollment management organization that partners with over 600 institutions annually to improve course scheduling efficiency and accessibility for students.
- Ad Astra offers unique solutions design to improve student retention, reduce time-to-completion, and improve graduate rates.
- Astra Academy is a webinar series that brings together diverse stakeholders across the higher education landscape to share with you how their work is helping to improve student outcomes with a focus on student retention, time-to-completion, or graduation.

Workshop Summary

- HERI & CIRP Overview
- Importance of Longitudinal Data/I-E-O
- Surveys
 - Freshman Survey (TFS)
 - **Your First College Year (YFCY)**
 - Diverse Learning Environments (DLE)
 - College Senior Survey (CSS)
 - Faculty Survey (FAC)
- Constructs/Themes
- Using the data & Sample analyses
- Q&A and Discussion

HERI Mission Statement

“The mission of the Higher Education Research Institute is to inform educational policy and promote institutional improvement through an increased understanding of higher education and its impact on college students.”



HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT UCLA
home of the COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

HERI Mission Statement

- *We accomplish this mission by:*
 - Working in cooperation with institutions of higher education
 - Producing and disseminating original research
 - Providing the tools and resources to utilize research at the institutional level
 - Training researchers to advance institutional assessment and scholarship in higher education
 - Developing partnerships with higher education organizations to promote institutional excellence

Two Dimensions of HERI

Grant-
Funded
Research



- HHMI
- Helmsley Trust
- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation



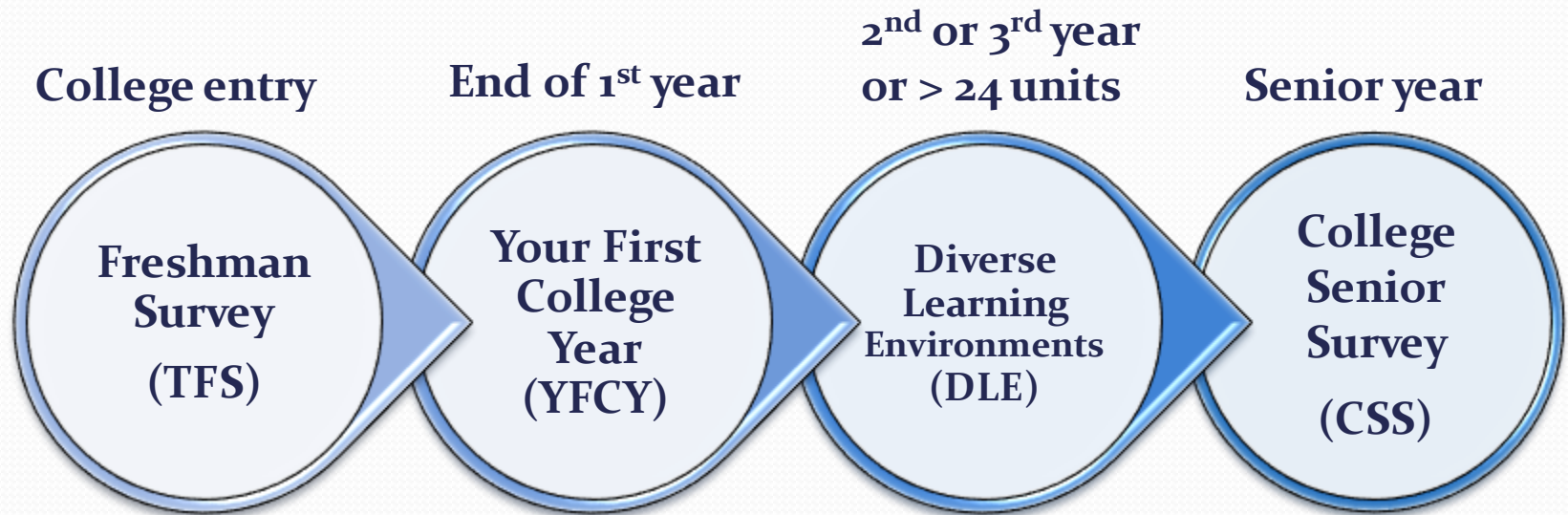
- Annual Student Surveys
- Triennial Faculty Survey

HERI

CIRP Overview

- Research-based Questions
 - 51 years of contributing to the research literature
- Comprehensive Survey Instruments
 - A broad scope allows for shifts of focus not tied to one particular theory but allows for multiple theories as we learn from previous research
- Comparative Information
 - Benchmark against peers and aspirational groups
- Longitudinal Design
- Annual redesign process

CIRP Student Surveys*



*Faculty Survey administered every 3 years

Importance of Longitudinal Data

- Link surveys completed by the same individual at different points in time
- Only way to effectively assess change
- Demonstrate growth
- Student development
- Program evaluation
- College impact



Astin's I-E-O Model

Environment

YFCY/DLE/CSS

(e.g., interactions with peers and faculty, academic enhancement experiences, co-curricular experiences)



Input

CIRP Freshman Survey

(e.g., academic performance in high school, financial concerns, expectations, degree aspirations, self-concept, demographics)



Outcome

YFCY/DLE/CSS

(e.g., gains in habits of mind, social agency, civic awareness, pluralistic orientation; satisfaction; post-college plans)

CIRP Freshman Survey (TFS)

- Largest and longest running study of higher education in the United States
- Started by Dr. Alexander Astin at ACE.
- 1966: First national administration
- Fall 2015 marked the 50th administration
- More than 15 million students
- Over 1,900 institutions

CIRP Freshman Survey (TFS)

- Administered during orientation or the summer before the first year of college
- ~60% of institutions still administer via paper
- Demographics
- HS experiences
- Goals
- Values
- Expectations for college
- **Pre-test/baseline measures for longitudinal studies**

Your First College Year (YFCY)

- Designed as a follow-up to TFS, can be stand-alone
- Administered at the end of the first year
- First administered in 2000
- Academic and social adjustment
- Transition to college
- Useful in studying retention/summer melt after first year

College Senior Survey (CSS)

- First administered in 1993 as College Student Survey.
- Now only for graduating seniors
- College experiences
- Satisfaction
- Career and graduate school plans

Diverse Learning Environments (DLE)

- Developed by Dr. Sylvia Hurtado as part of a Ford Foundation grant
- Campus climate for diversity
- Links climate (perceptions and behaviors) and practice (what institutions do) with student outcomes
- First administered in 2011
- Administered to undergraduates at any level
- Separate 2-year institution version of the instrument
- Online only
- Includes questions about sexual assault and students' experiences with discrimination and bias

HERI Faculty Survey (FAC)

- First administered in 1989
- Administered every 3 years
- Pedagogy and classroom practices
- Faculty-student interaction
- Sources of stress and satisfaction
- Salary
- Workload issues
- Next administration: 2019-2020

Staff Climate Survey (SCS)

- Pilot administered in 2016-2017
- First national administration 2017-2018
- Administered annually
- Designed for ALL staff
- Staff views of campus climate
- Staff-faculty interaction
- Staff-student interaction
- Sources of stress and satisfaction
- Relationship with supervisor
- Overlap with DLE and FAC

CIRP Constructs	TFS	YFCY	DLE*	CSS	FAC
Academic Adjustment		•			
Academic Disengagement		•		•	
Academic Self-Concept	•	•	•	•	
Academic Validation in the Classroom		•	•		
Career-Related Stress					•
Civic Awareness		•		•	
Civic Engagement	•	•	•	•	
Civic-Minded Practice; Values					•
Co-Curricular Diversity Activities			•		
College Reputation Orientation	•				
Conversations Across Difference			•		
Critical Consciousness and Action			•		
Curriculum of Inclusion			•		
Discrimination and Bias			•		
Faculty Interaction		•		•	
General Interpersonal Validation		•	•		
Habits of Mind	•	•	•	•	
Harassment			•		
Institutional Commitment to Diversity			•		
Institutional Priority: Civic Engagement; Commitment to Diversity; Prestige					•
Integration of Learning			•		
Leadership		•		•	
Likelihood of College Involvement	•				
Negative Cross-Racial Interaction		•	•	•	
Overall Satisfaction		•		•	
Pluralistic Orientation	•	•	•	•	
Positive Cross-Racial Interaction		•	•	•	
Satisfaction: Coursework		•		•	
Satisfaction: Workplace; Compensation					•
Scholarly Productivity					•
Sense of Belonging		•	•	•	
Social Agency	•	•	•	•	
Social Self-Concept	•	•		•	
Student-Centered Pedagogy					•
Undergraduate Goal: Personal Development					•

Using the Data: Analysis & Interpretation

- Descriptives
 - Frequency distributions
 - Crosstabs
- Factor Analysis/Constructs
- Group Comparisons
 - T-tests/ANOVA & Post-hoc tests
- Longitudinal Studies
 - Regression
 - HLM

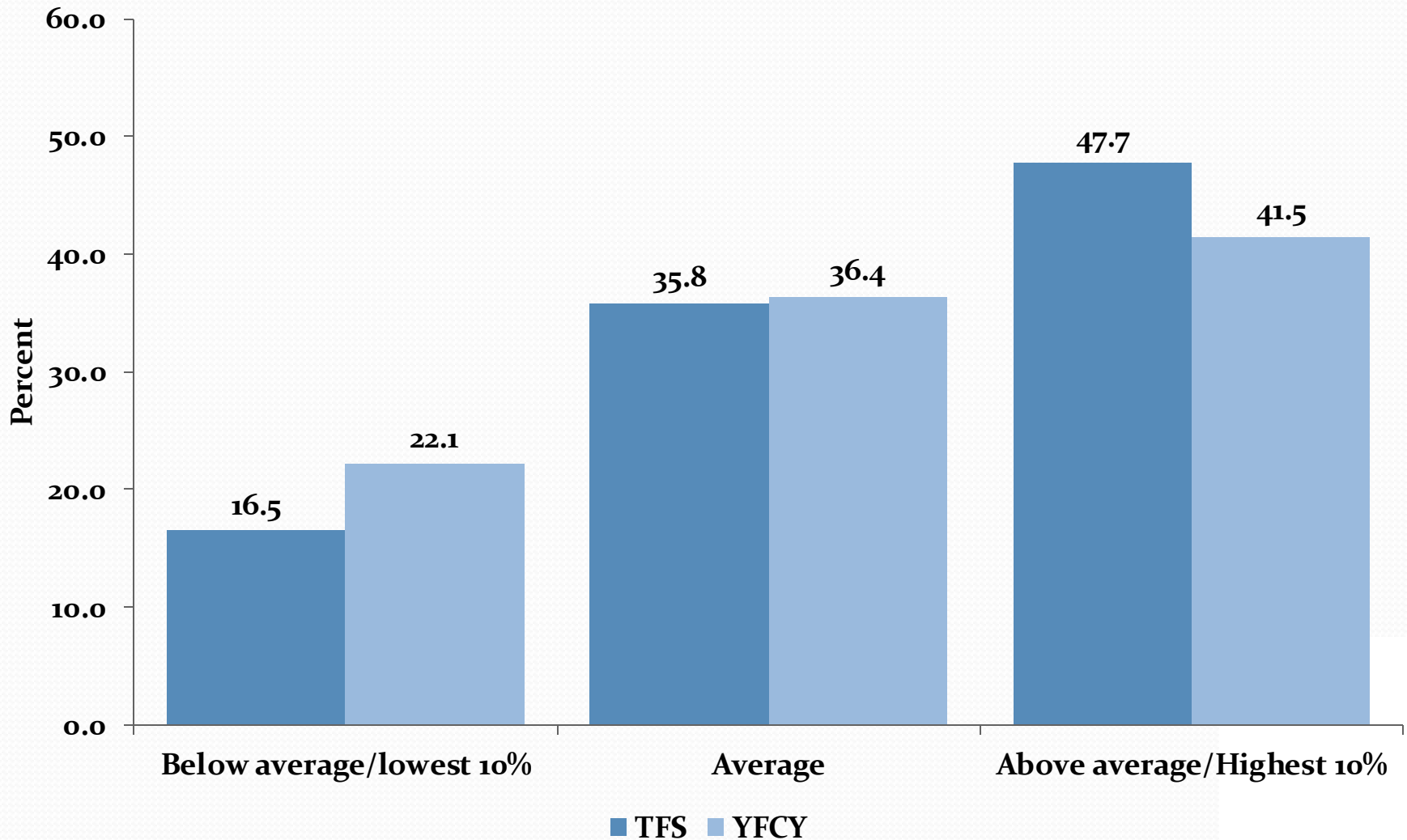
Using the Data: 3 Perspectives

- Local campus research
 - Program review and evaluation
 - Merge with institutional data
 - Institutional effectiveness
 - Campus climate
 - Learning outcomes
 - Accreditation
- Institutional-level Comparisons
 - National
 - Comparison groups
 - Institution-selected peers
- HERI research using national data
 - Peer-reviewed journals
 - Monographs
 - Presentations
 - Brief Reports

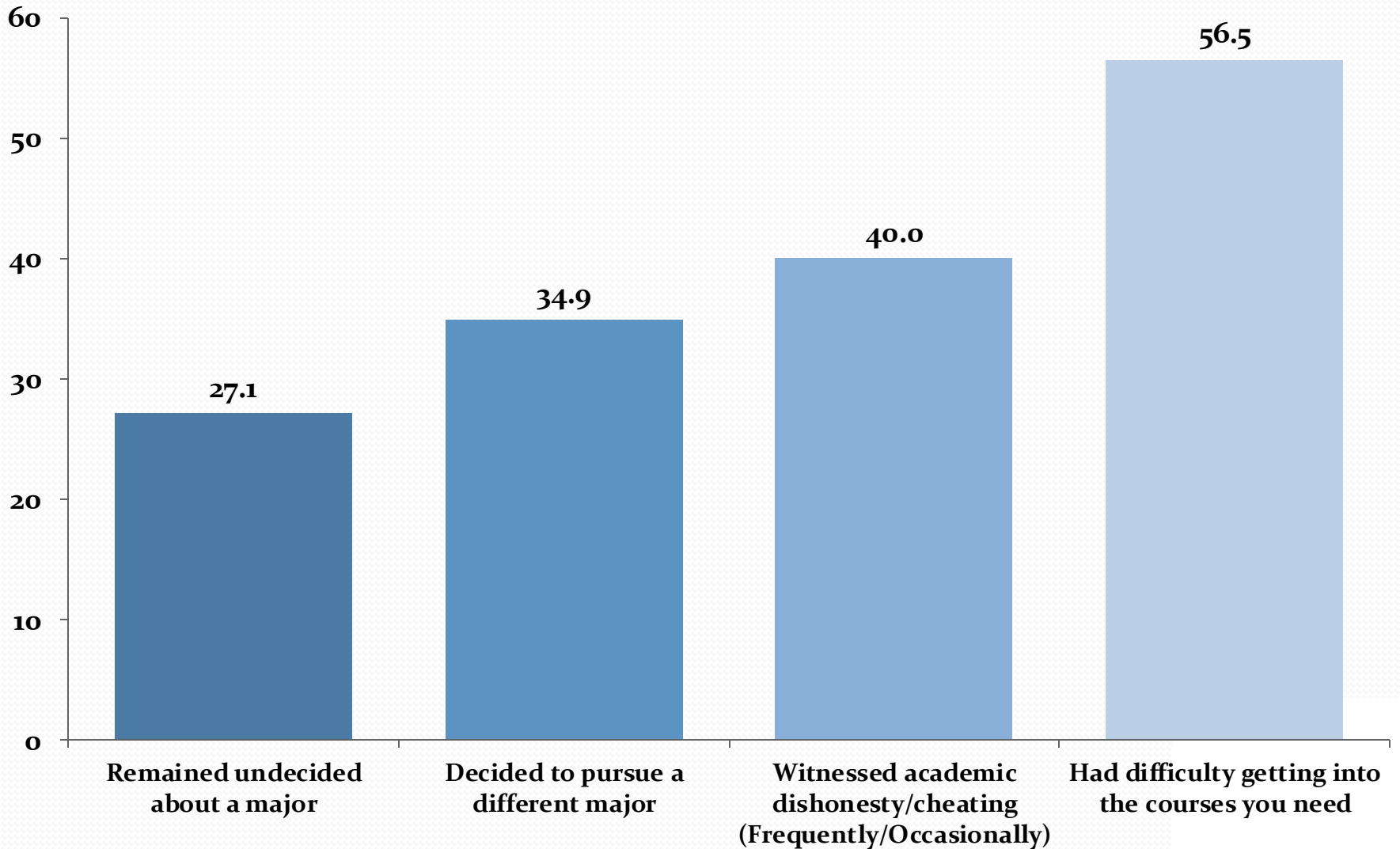
Retention studies using TFS & YFCY

- Longitudinal is best.
- Retention module available in the online version of YFCY to institutions can invite students who are not currently enrolled to fill it out.
- TFS—YFCY—Fall 2nd-year enrollment
 - TFS—Retention module
 - TFS—YFCY—Fall 2nd-year enrollment (descriptives)
 - TFS—YFCY—Fall 2nd-year enrollment (predictive modeling)
 - YFCY—Fall 2nd-year enrollment

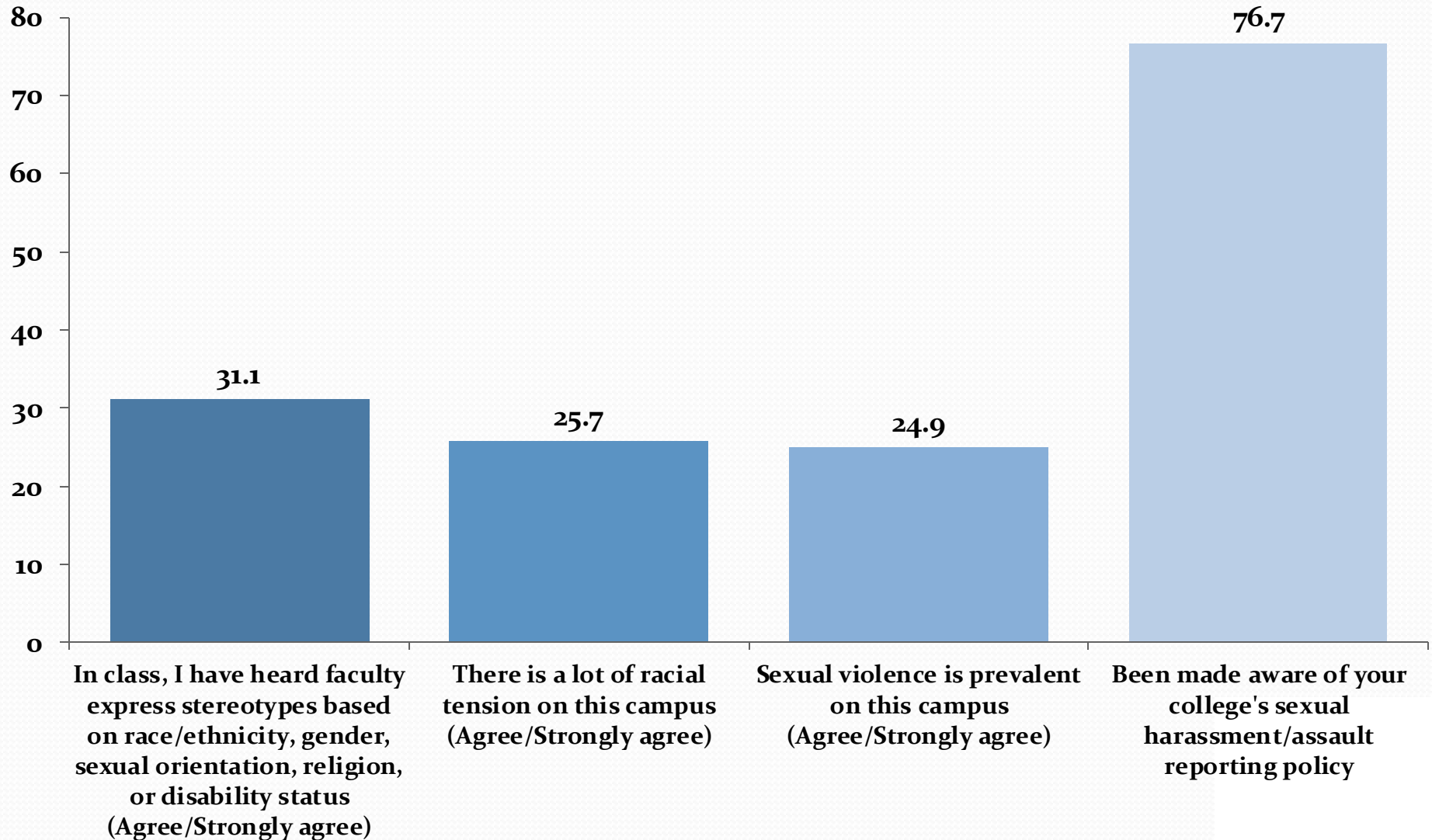
Self-rated Emotional Health



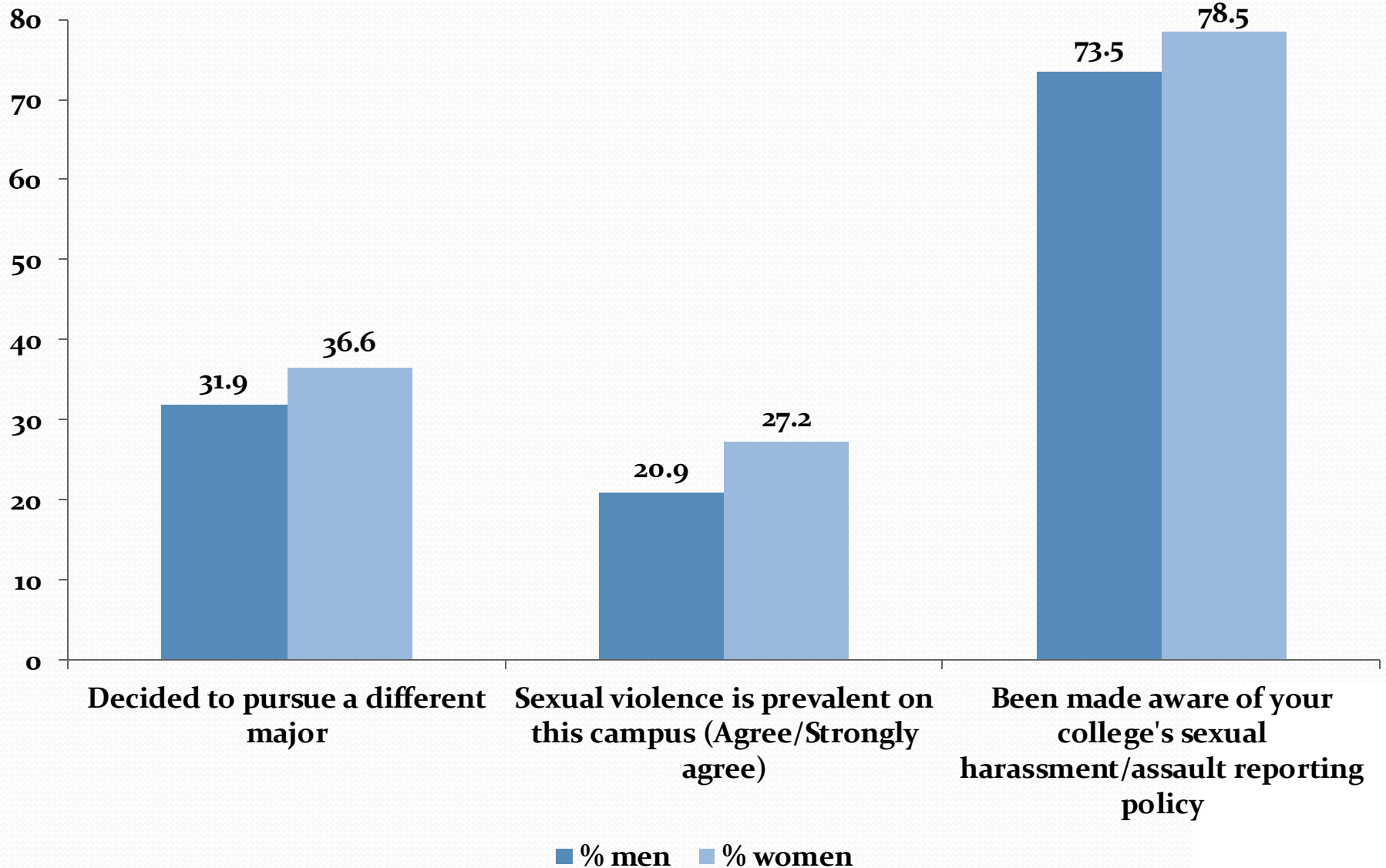
Academic Experiences



Aspects of Campus Climate



Experiences by Sex



Recent Projects

- Emerging Voices
 - Transgender students
 - Military status
 - Students on the Autism spectrum
 - Students in the foster care system
- Sense of belonging for LGBTQ and Transgender students
- Queer-spectrum and trans-spectrum students' experiences with sexual violence, discrimination, and bias
- National Resource Center on the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition – Common Reading Programs
- Collaborations with scholars around the country

Future Research

- Meta-analysis on emerging data on Queer-spectrum and Trans-spectrum students
 - Tyler Clementi Center Academic Colloquium White Paper (all)
 - Book chapter (Public research universities only)
- College choice, HS experiences, and access for Foster Care Alumni
 - ASHE Paper
 - Book chapter
- New Directions for Institutional Research chapter on student affairs assessment
- Data from our Staff Climate Survey pilot
- 2016-2017 Faculty Survey monograph
- 2017 American Freshman monograph release in late January/early February

Data Access

- Data > 10 years old is available for free through our public data archive
- Purchase custom reports
- Data are embargoed for 3 years
- Purchase data sets older than 3 years
 - Proposal process
 - \$2,500 for non-UCLA faculty and researchers (base fee)
 - \$600 for non-UCLA graduate students (base fee)
- Opportunities for collaboration
- HERI consultants and training



Questions?
Comments?

Contact Information

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