

Ohio's 2-Year to 4-Year Transfers: Completion Rates & Regional Differences

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October 2016

Section 3333.16.C in the 2016-17 budget bill, relevant research questions, and the answers

No later than December 1, 2018, associate degrees granted by Ohio public institutions of higher education will transfer and apply to the completion of baccalaureate degrees in Ohio public 4-year institutions

**Section 3333.16.C ,
2016-17 Budget Bill**

Questions:

What are the six-year graduation rates of our 2-year to 4-year transfers?

What factors breed success – the characteristics of the students, of the regions, or of the institutions?

Do transfer students, on average, complete more hours at graduation?

Our results:

Almost half of Ohio's 2-year to 4-year public institution transfers graduate in six years. Graduation rates are higher for students who transfer to institutions within the same region. Also, transfer students do complete more hours.

Section 3333.16.C in the 2016-17 budget bill

- The Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education will ensure, no later than December 1, 2018, that any associate degree granted by Ohio public institutions of higher education will transfer and apply to the completion of baccalaureate degrees in Ohio public 4-year institutions in equivalent fields without unnecessary duplication and institutional barriers.
- Transferred associate degrees will apply to the degree objective in the same manner as equivalent coursework completed by students at the receiving institution.

According to section 3333.16.C in the 2016-17 budget bill passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor Kasich.

Broad questions on the topic

- Section 3333.16.C paves the way for increased efficiencies in degree production, along with a focus on enhanced equality between transfer and native students at 4-year universities.
- Against the backdrop, it is important that we know what proportion of transfer students currently go on to receive baccalaureate degrees from 4-year universities.
- The knowledge of the factors that influence graduation is especially important as we can draw on the success of the institutions, of the regions where the institutions are located, and of the students themselves.
- It is also important to know how transfers and native students at 4-year universities, both eventual graduates, compare with respect to the number of hours they completed.

Our specific research questions

- What are the six-year graduation rates of transfer students?
 - We calculate six-year graduation rates for Ohio 2-year public institution entrants who transfer to Ohio public 4-year university main campuses.
- What influences the graduation rates of transfer students – the characteristics of the students, their regions, or the institutions?
 - We answer the question by,
 - Comparing graduation rates among Ohio regions.
 - Comparing graduation rates among Ohio institutions.
 - Comparing demographic characteristics among regions and among institutions.
- Do transfer students, on average, complete more hours at graduation relative to non-transfer (native) students at 4-year institutions?
 - We compare completed hours at graduation between students with and without Associate degrees to answer the question.

Definitions of transfer

OATN definition: A student is defined as a transfer if she makes a clean break from the college of attendance in an academic year. The college of attendance is defined as the one where the student attended the maximum credit hours in the year. A clean break occurs in one of three ways:

1. The student formally transfers credits from her college of attendance to another institution.
2. The student does not transfer credit to another institution but attends a single institution of higher education that is different from the original college of attendance.
3. The student does not transfer credit to another institution but attendance multiple institutions and attempts the maximum number of credit hours in an institution other than the original college of attendance.

Features of the sample: FY2008-09 Transfers

	All students	Year of first entry		
		FY2005-06	FY2006-07	FY2007-08
Number of students	2,701	794	1,047	860

- Our sample comprises 2,701 students who transferred from Ohio public 2-year institutions to public 4-year institutions in FY2008-09.
- They had started as first-time, full-time students in the 2-year institution in FY2005-06, FY2006-07, and FY2007-08.
 - First-time college students with accumulated college credit (earned as dual-enrollment high-school students) are included in the sample.

Graduation rates: FY2008-09 Transfers

	All students	Year of first entry		
		FY2005-06	FY2006-07	FY2007-08
Number of students	2,701	794	1,047	860
Graduated in six or fewer years	49.9%	44.5%	55.1%	48.6%
Graduated in six or more years	63.4%	69.6%	66.7%	53.6%



- Almost half of the FY2007-08 transfers graduated in six years.
- Six-year graduation rates are very high for the FY2006-07 entrants. This could be due to the looming conversion of academic calendar in FY2012-13; the six-year mark for them is FY2011-12.
- Graduation rates are significantly higher when time horizon is extended beyond six years.

Graduation rates by Associate degree status: FY2008-09 Transfers

	All students	Year of first entry		
		FY2005-06	FY2006-07	FY2007-08
Received an Associated Degree	783	370	311	102
Six-Year graduation rates: By Associate degree				
Students with Associate degrees	50.6%	50.3%	55.3%	37.3%
Students without Associate degrees	49.6%	39.4%	55.0%	50.1%

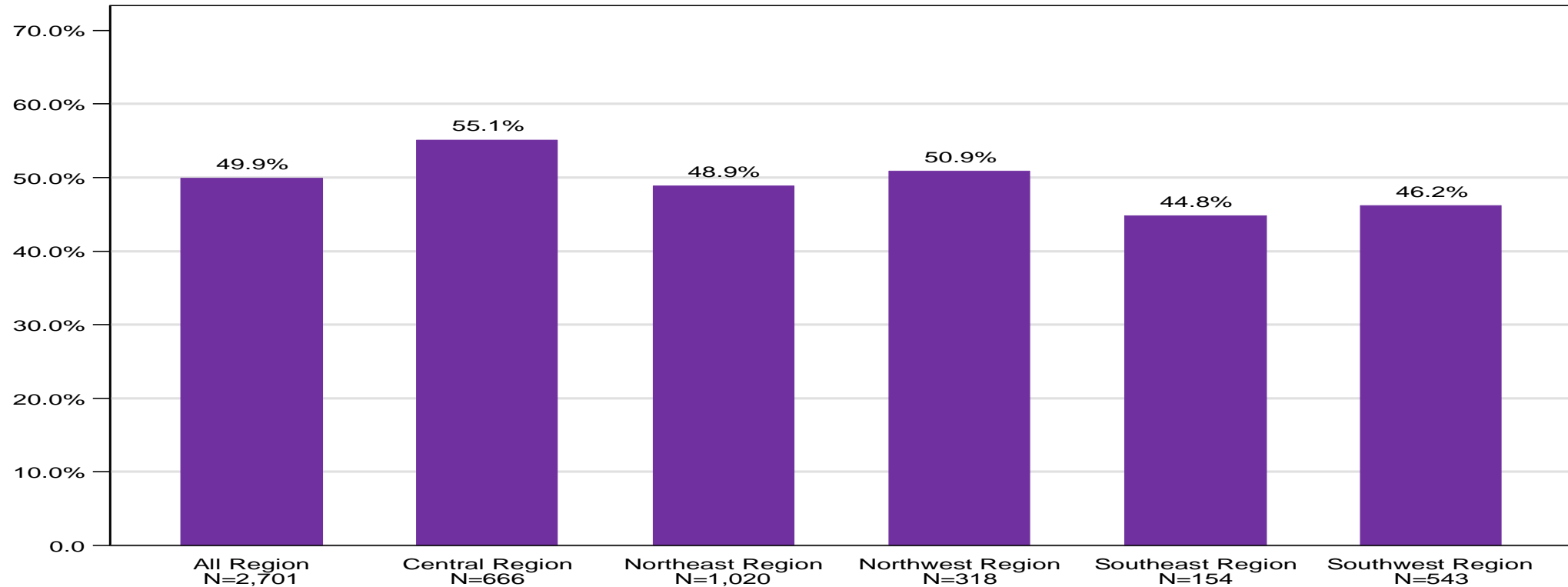
- More students from the early cohorts received Associate degrees in the first two years.
- Associate degree recipients from FY2005-06 have a 10.9 point higher rate of graduation. Importantly, 86% of those students received their Associate degrees by the year of transfer.
- However, among the FY2007-08 students with associate degrees, only 27% received their degrees by the year of transfer.

FY2008-09 regional transfer matrix

		To 					
		All regions	Central	Northeast	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest
From 	Central	666	511	30	25	57	43
	Northeast	1,020	68	777	96	59	20
	Northwest	318	23	10	263	3	19
	Southeast	154	15	19	5	91	24
	Southwest	543	64	11	28	33	407
		All regions	666	511	30	25	57
	Central	666	511	30	25	57	43
	Northeast	1,020	68	777	96	59	20
	Northwest	318	23	10	263	3	19
	Southeast	154	15	19	5	91	24
	Southwest	543	64	11	28	33	407

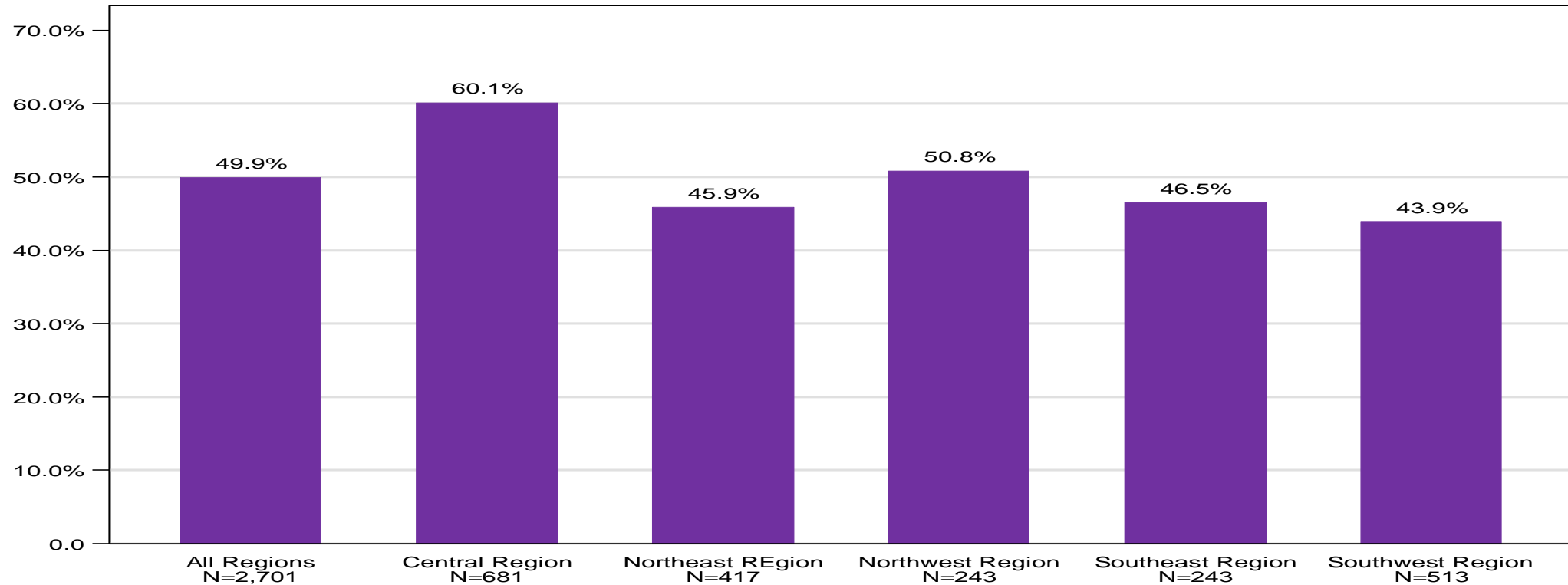
Six-year graduation rates by region of origin: FY2008-09 transfers

Six-Year Graduation Rates by Region of Origin
FY2008-09 Transfers



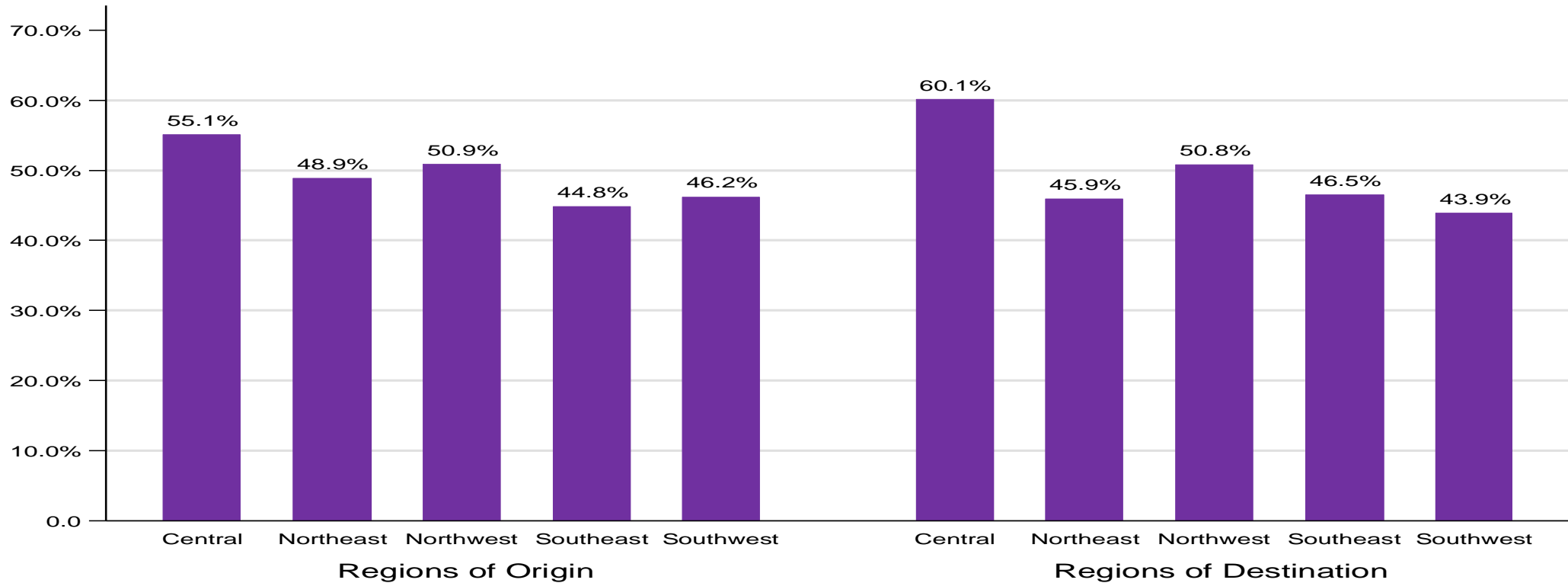
Six-Year graduation rates by region of destination: FY2008-09 transfers

Six-Year Graduation Rates by Region of Destination
FY2008-09 Transfers



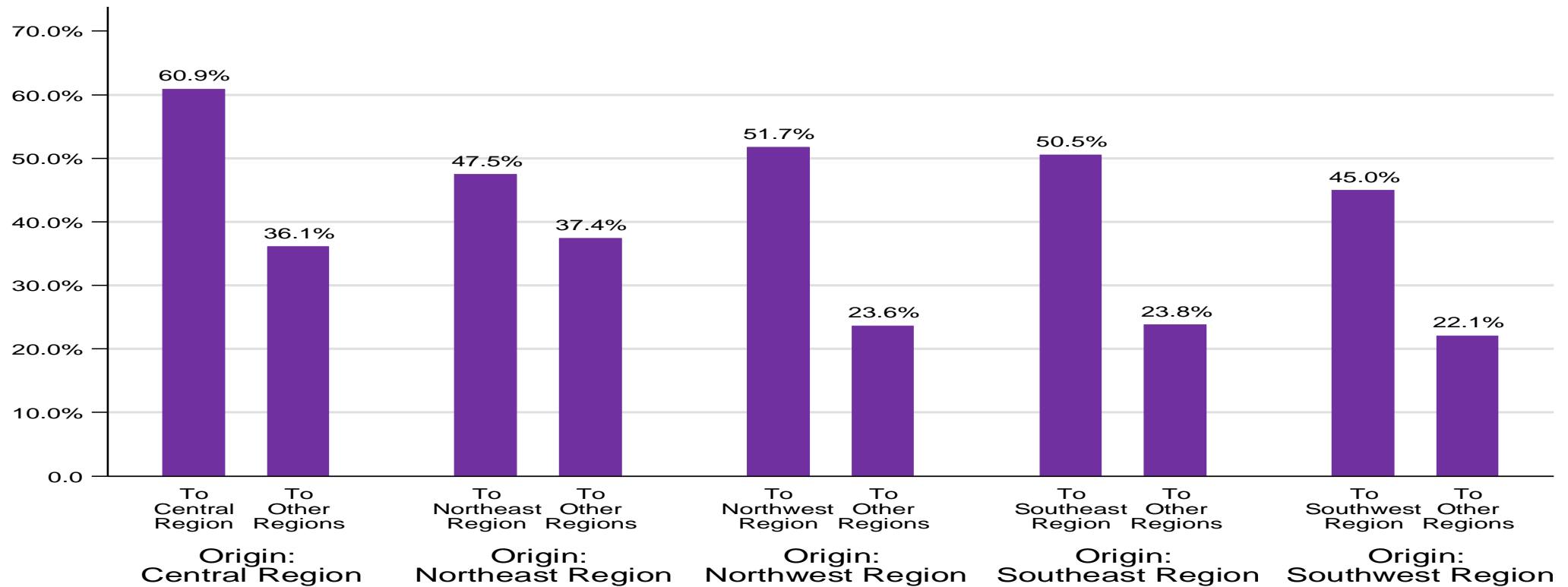
Six-year graduation rates: By regions of origin & regions of destination

Six-Year Graduation Rates by Regions of Origin & Destination
FY2008-09 Transfers

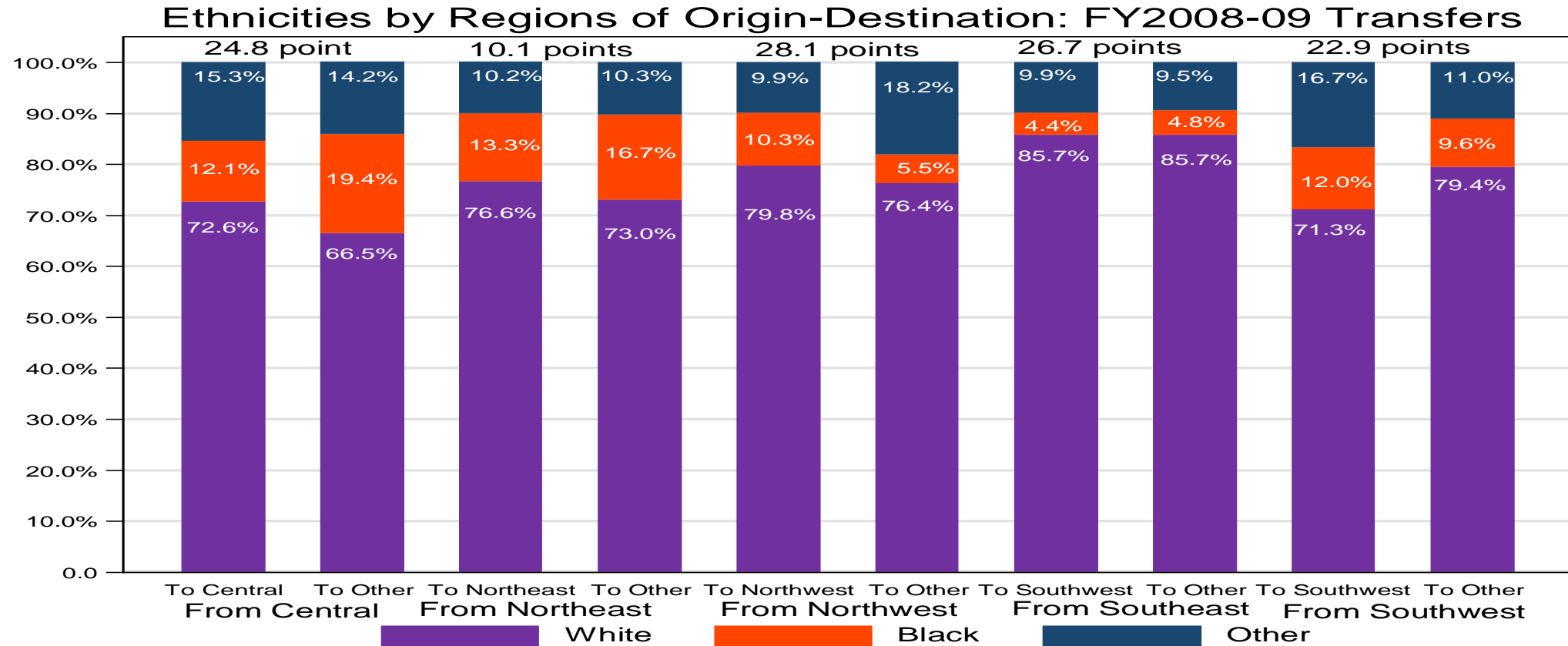


Six-year graduation rates: By regions of origin-destination combinations

Six-Year Graduation Rates by Origin-Destination Combinations
FY2008-09 Transfers



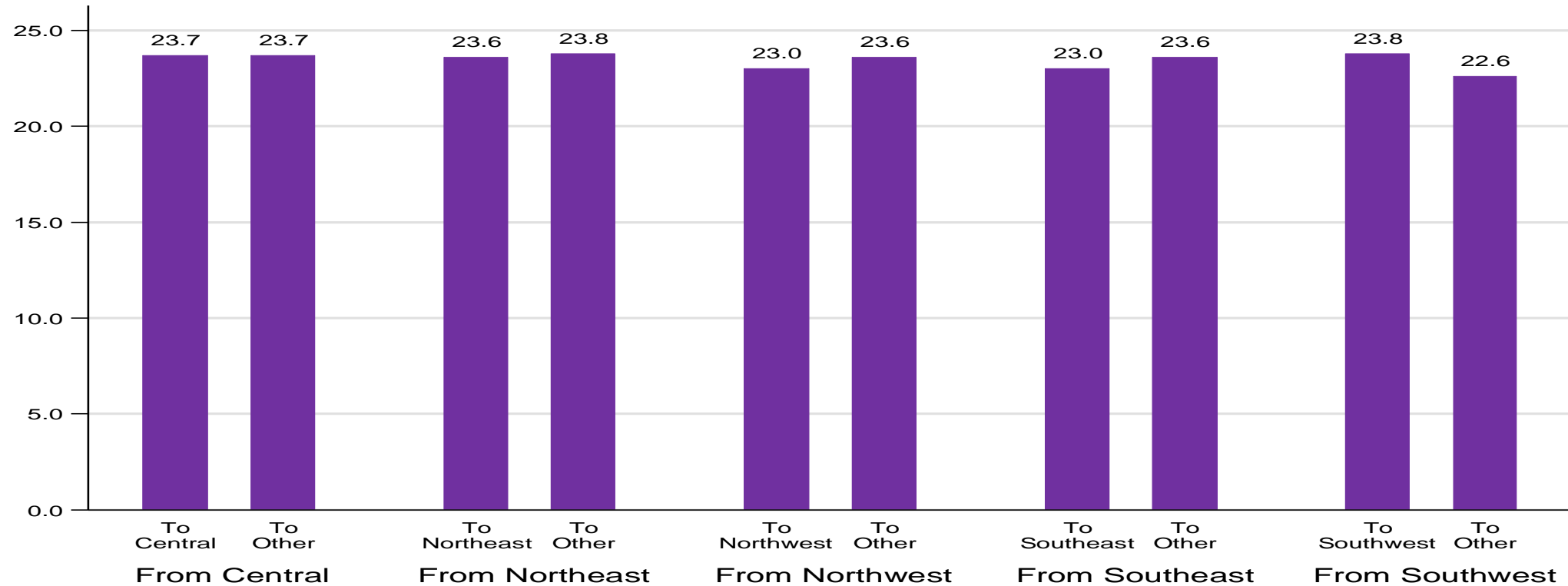
Are ethnicities important? Apparently not



Note: Numbers above the bars indicate differences in graduation rates.

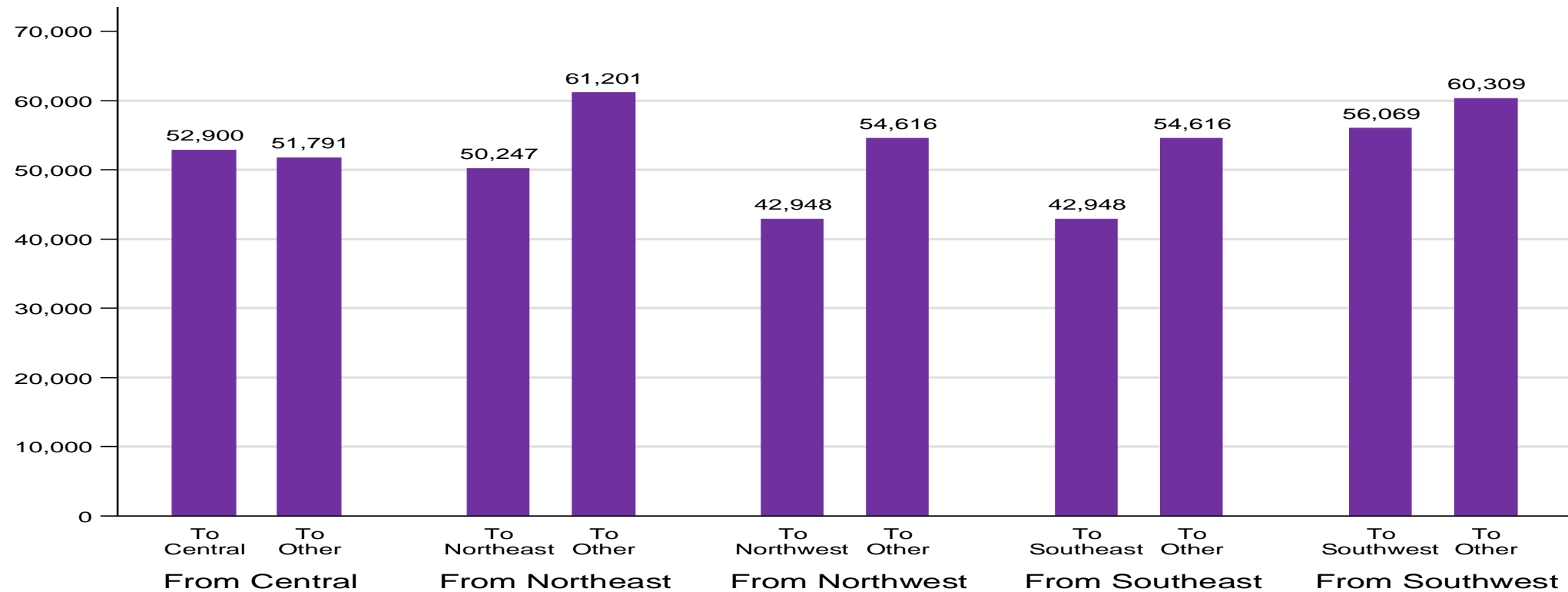
Students' age at the time of the transfer?

Age Difference by Origin-Destination Combinations FY2008-09 Transfers



Family income?

Family Income by Regions of Origin-Destination Combinations
FY2008-09 Transfers



Family income, from Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) is expressed in 2010 constant dollars.

Staying in the region helps graduation

- Almost one-half of the students transferring from a 2-year to a 4-year public institution of higher education in Ohio goes on to graduate in six years (from the time of entering the 2-year institution as a full-time, first-time student).
- Graduation rates show small variations across regions of origin (where students started) and regions of destination (where students transferred)
- However, graduation rates vary widely depending on whether students transfer to institutions in the same region or to other regions in the state.
- For example, 60.9% of the transfer students from the Central region graduate in six years if they transfer to 4-year institutions in the Central region; only 36.1% of those transferring to institutions outside of the Central region graduated.
- The differences in graduation rates between in-region and out-of-region transfers cannot be explained well by differences in ethnicity, gender, age or family income.

Transfer-out graduation rates: By institution of origin

Institution	N	Rate	Institution	N	Rate	Institution	N	Rate
Columbus State	629	57.1%	Hocking College	62	56.5%	North Central Technical	22	36.4%
Cuyahoga Comm.	497	44.9%	Clark State	44	38.6%	Eastern Gateway	17	23.5%
Sinclair	324	49.4%	Northwest State	40	60.0%	James A. Rhodes	17	47.1%
Owens State	238	50.4%	Southern State	40	30.0%	Washington State	16	31.3%
Lorain	207	62.8%	Rio Grande	39	46.2%	Belmont Technical	10	10.0%
Lakeland	199	53.8%	Zane State	27	37.0%	Central Ohio Technical	10	-
Cincinnati State	109	44.0%	Edison State	26	53.8%	Marion Technical	5	-
Stark State	100	35.0%	Terra State	23	43.5%	Total	2,701	

Transfer-in graduation rates: By institution of destination

Institution	Number	Graduation Rate	Institution	Number	Graduation Rate
Ohio State	681	60.1%	Shawnee State	59	22.0%
Cleveland State	383	53.5%	Miami University	29	62.1%
Wright State	292	45.2%	Youngstown State	23	26.1%
University of Toledo	234	42.3%	Central State	15	-
Kent State	231	49.4%			
University of Akron	210	30.5%			
Ohio University	184	54.3%			
Bowling Green State	183	61.7%			
University of Cincinnati	177	42.4%			

Graduation rates: Selected origin-destination combinations (1)

Origin	Transfer-outs	Destination	Transfer-ins	Graduation Rate
Columbus State Community College Graduation rate: 57.1%	629	Ohio State University	506	61.5%
		Ohio University	38	52.8%
		Wright State University	20	35.0%
Cuyahoga Community College Graduation rate: 44.9%	497	Cleveland State University	219	49.3%
		University of Akron	90	31.1%
		Kent State University	80	47.5%
		University of Toledo	28	21.4%
		Ohio State University	27	58.6%

Graduation rates: Selected origin-destination combinations (2)

Origin	Transfer-outs	Destination	Transfer-ins	Graduation Rate
Sinclair Community College Graduation rate: 49.4%	324	Wright State University	195	48.7%
		Ohio State University	45	64.4%
		University of Cincinnati	34	38.2%
Owens State Community College Graduation rate: 50.4%	238	University of Toledo	133	43.6%
		Bowling Green State	77	59.7%

Graduation rates: Selected origin-destination combinations (3)

Origin	Transfer-outs	Destination	Transfer-ins	Graduation Rate
Lorain County Community Graduation rate: 62.8%	207	Cleveland State University	65	66.2%
		Kent State University	46	73.9%
Lakeland Community Graduation rate: 53.8%	199	Cleveland State University	86	55.8%
		Kent State University	42	54.8%
Cincinnati State Graduation rate: 44.0%	109	University of Cincinnati	100	44.4%
Stark State Graduation rate: 35.1%	100	University of Akron	40	38.6%
		Kent State University	39	30.8%

Comparison of Demographics: Cuyahoga County to Cleveland, Akron, Kent State, Toledo & Ohio State

Origin	Destinations				
Cuyahoga Community	Cleveland	Kent State	Akron	Toledo	Ohio State
Number of students	219	80	90	28	29
Six-Year Graduation Rates	49.3%	47.5%	31.1%	21.4%	58.6%
Black	20.1%	25.0%	17.8%	46.4%	3.4%
White	60.3%	66.3%	78.9%	50.0%	82.8%
Hispanic	3.2%	3.8%	1.1%	0.0%	3.4%
Asian	6.8%	1.3%	1.1%	3.6%	-
Male	46.1%	57.5%	52.2%	71.4%	58.6%
Age at entry	21.7	20.2	19.2	18.6	19.0
Age at transfer	24.8	22.8	22.0	21.2	21.7
Average family income	\$39,865	\$44,095	\$59,467	\$45,480	\$50,687

Destination Kent State: Origin Cuyahoga Community, Lorain, Lakeland & Stark College

Kent State	Institution of Origin			
	Cuyahoga Community	Lorain County	Lakeland Community	Stark College
Number of students	N=80	N=46	N=42	N=39
Six-Year Graduation Rates	47.5%	73.9%	54.8%	30.8%
Black	25.0%	2.2%	-	10.3%
White	66.3%	93.5%	90.5%	82.1%
Hispanic	3.8%	-	2.4%	2.6%
Asian	1.3%	4.3%	2.4%	0.0%
Male	57.5%	43.5%	50.0%	46.2%
Age at entry	20.2	18.6	19.3	20.7
Age at transfer	22.8	21.9	22.0	23.1
Average family income	\$44,095	\$61,640	\$60,119	\$44,712

Large-scale bilateral movements associated with higher graduation rates

- Eight 2-year institutions accounted for 85% of the 2-year to 4-year main campus transfers in our sample for FY2008-09.
- Transfer students from the large 2-year institutions have higher rates of graduation on average.
- Transfer students to 4-year institutions with large enrollments also have higher rates of graduation.
- Six-year graduation rates of transfer-outs from a particular 2-year institution are usually the highest when they transfer to one or two particular 4-year institutions.
- Demographic factors may explain some of the success inherent in the large-scale bilateral transfer movements but not all.
- Comparisons of more and less successful origin-destination combinations suggest multiple possibilities:
 - Institutions in successful bilateral links may have developed specific practices.
 - Institutions in successful bilateral links may have attracted and admitted high-performing students.

Results: Completed hours at graduation

- Sample: Degree recipients in FY2011-12.
- Why pick FY2011-12? We wanted to make sure that reductions in degree hour requirements were not in force.
- However, we may have picked more students with degrees because FY2011-12 saw more students graduate (as calendar conversion loomed).
- Students with Associate degrees: 4,073 students
 - Attempted hours: 162.2
 - Completed hours: 146.2
- Students without Associate degrees: 16,075 students
 - Attempted hours: 153.1
 - Completed hours: 137.1
- Associate degree recipients complete more hours.