



Our First-Year Students: How Well Do You Know Them?

Michelle Barton, Palomar College
Bettina Huber, Cal State San Marcos
Cosette Lare, MiraCosta College

NCHEA Task Force on First-Year Student Success
August 20, 2004



Overview

- How many of our students are first-year students?
- What are their demographics?
- Are they prepared for college-level work?
- How do they perform when they get to college?
- Do they come back for their second year?
- Do they complete their studies?



Brief Description of Study

- Jointly devised a list of variables, mostly demographic.
- Each institution provided first-time entering student data for four cohorts (Fall 2000-2003).
- Data analyzed by cohort and across cohorts.
- In general, distribution of data describing cohorts from each institution remains consistent over time...

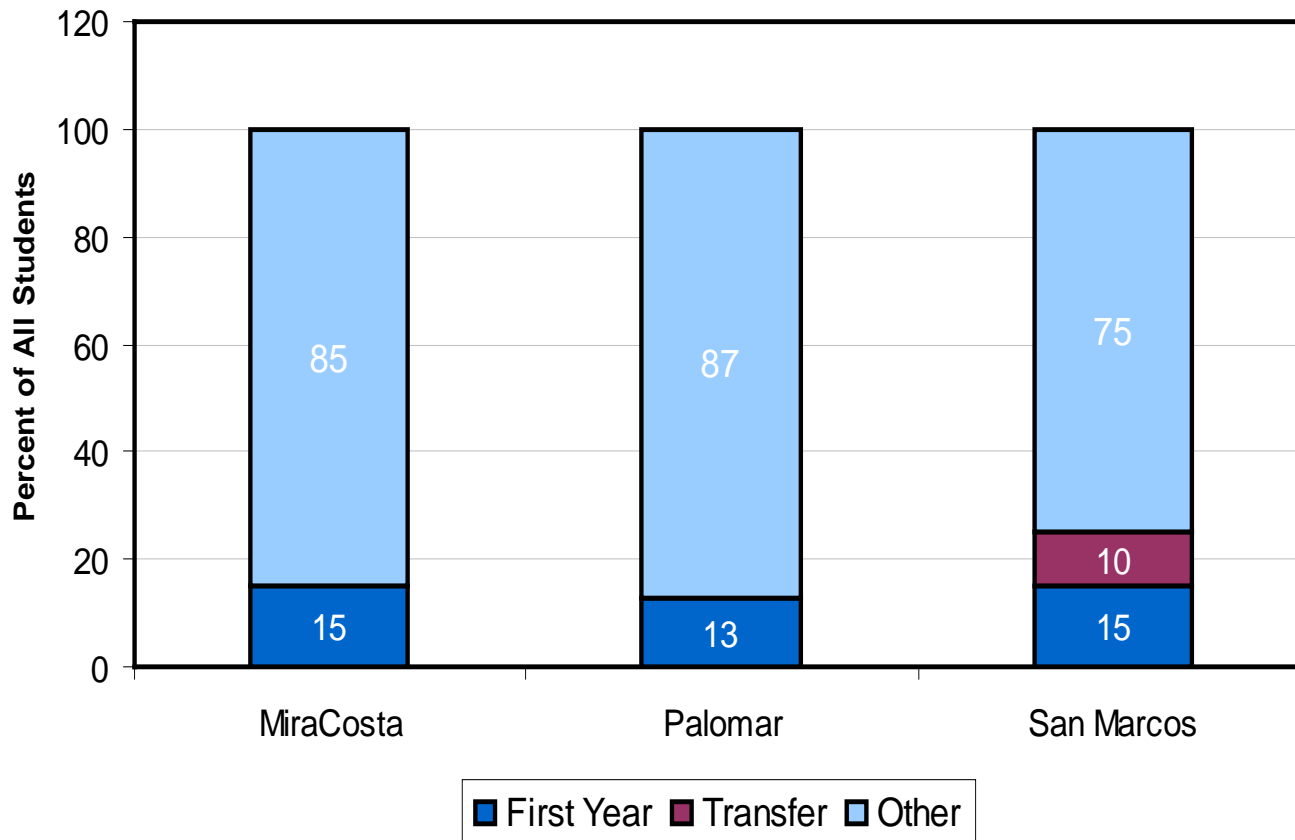


Size of First-Year Student Group

For any given term, how many of our students are first-year students?

Size of First-Year Groups

Distribution of Students by Level and NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)





Size of First-Year Groups

- Let's break this down in numbers...
 - Average cohort size of MiraCosta = 1,484
 - Average cohort size of Palomar = 4,189
 - Average cohort size of San Marcos = 712
- 6,385
- Taken together, our First-Year Student group is larger than some community colleges in California.

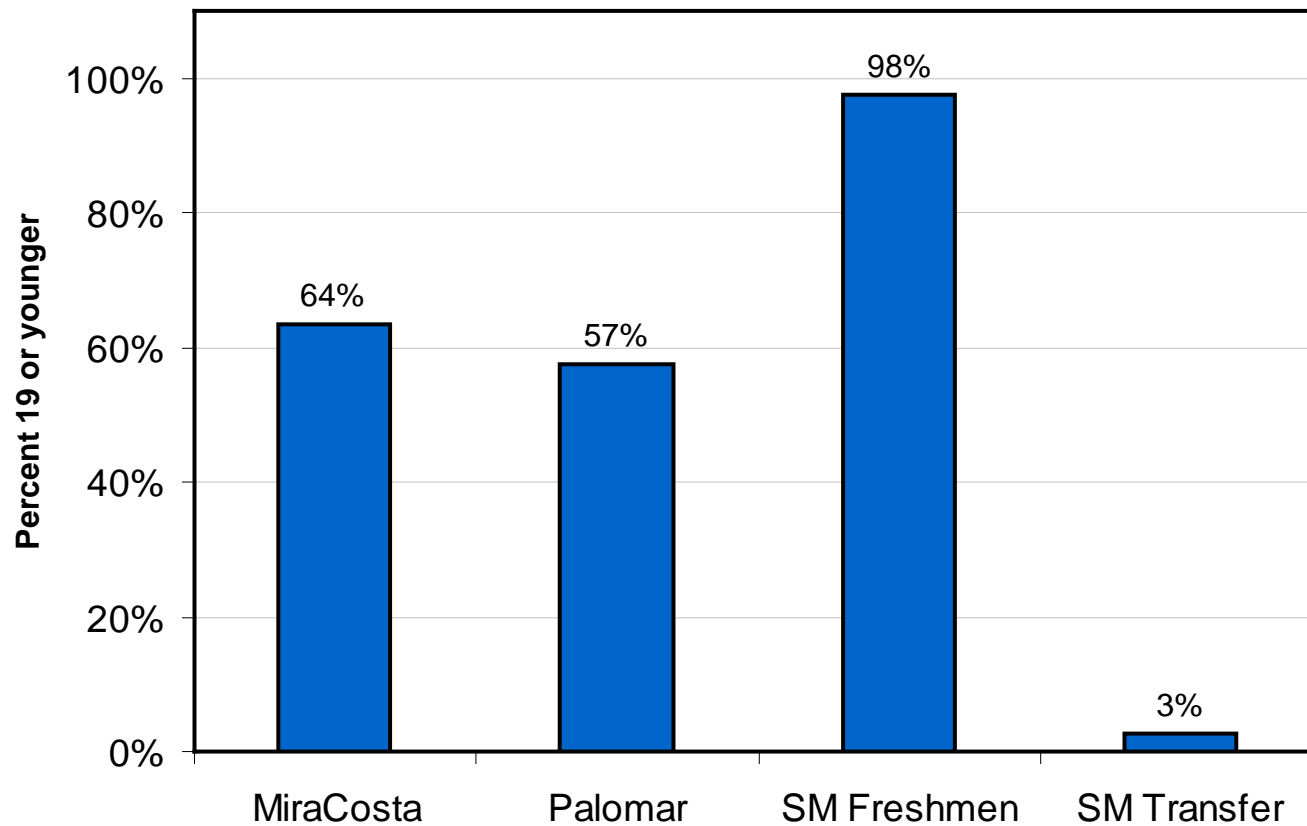


Demographics

What are their demographics?

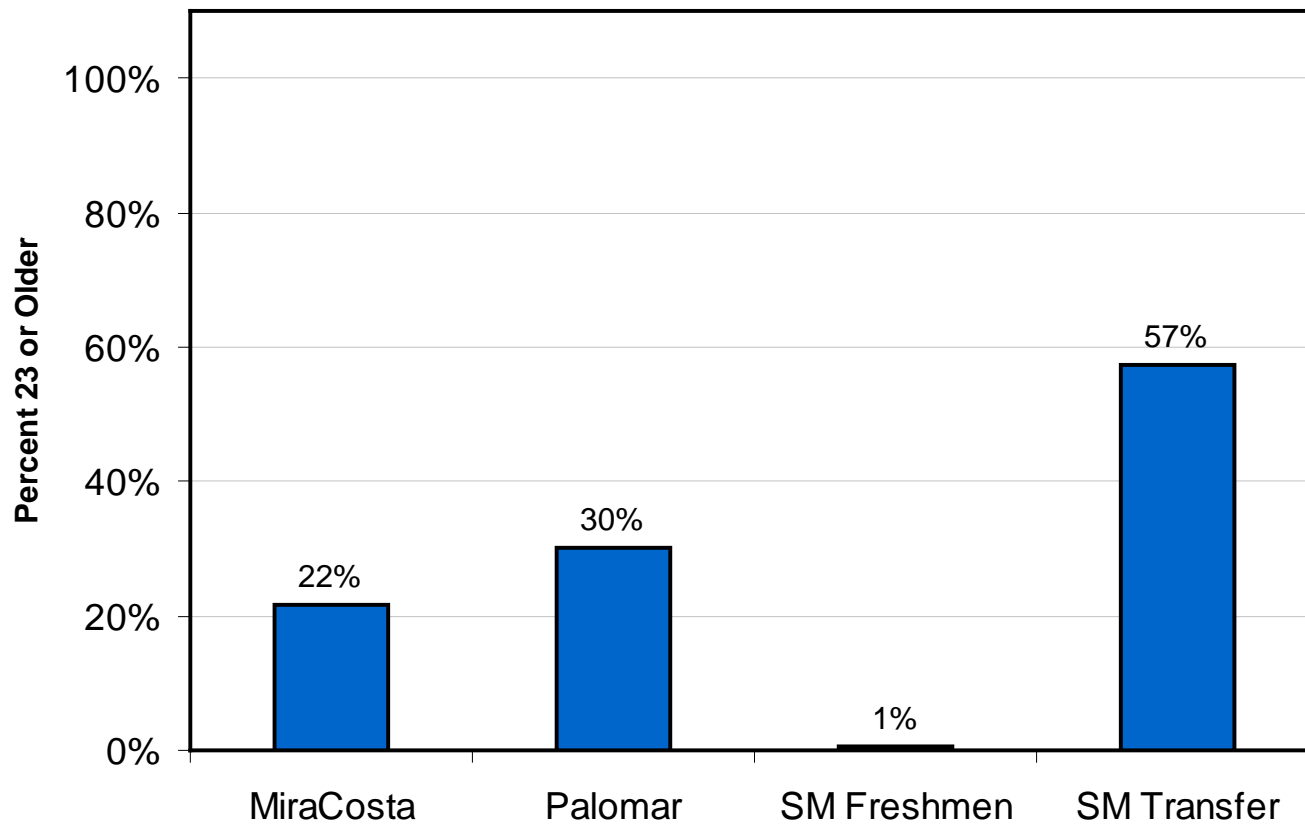
Demographics

**Percentage of Students Who Are 19 or Younger at Entry by NCHEA Institution
(2000-03 Entrants)**



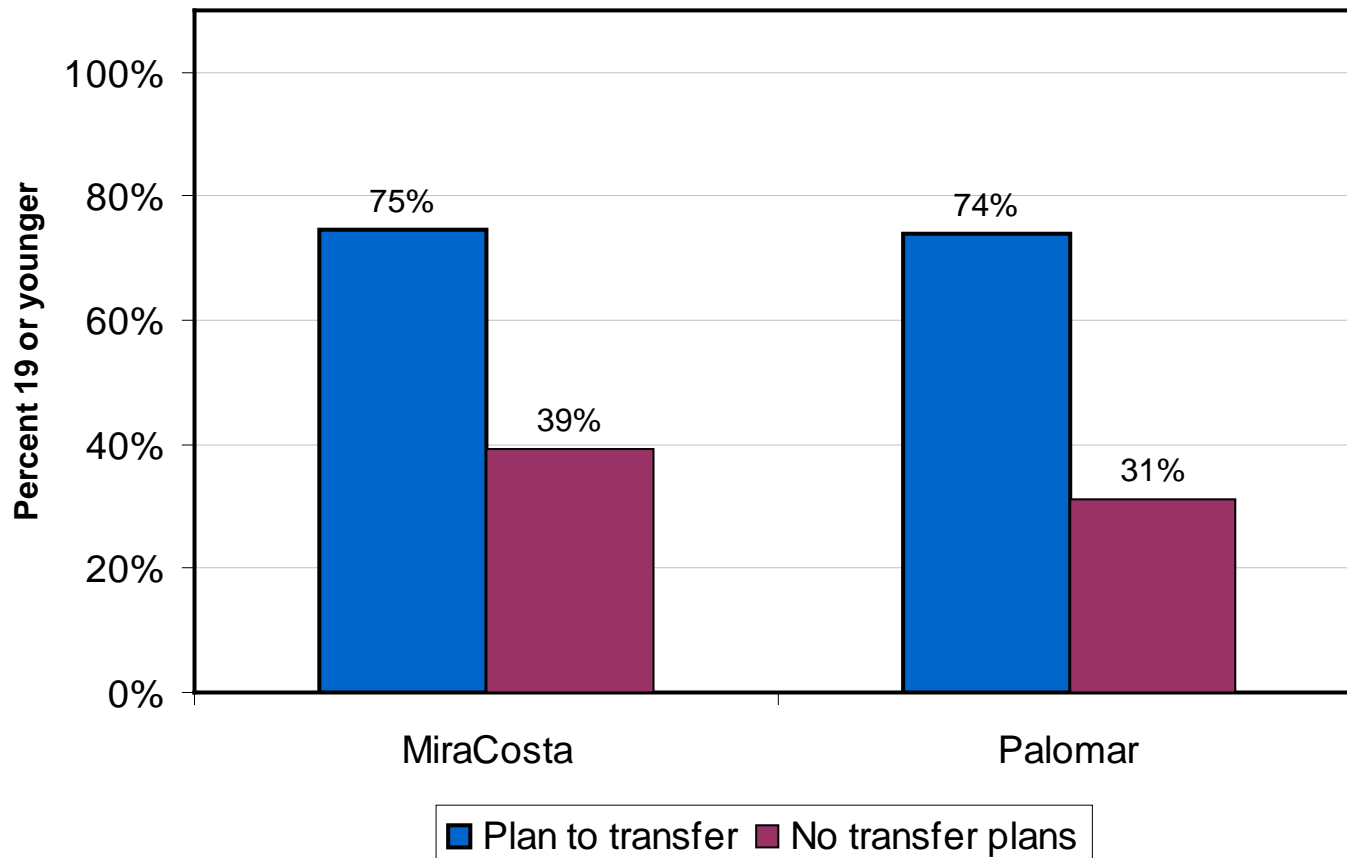
Demographics

**Percentage of Students Who Are 23 or Older at Entry by NCHEA Institution
(2000-03 Entrants)**



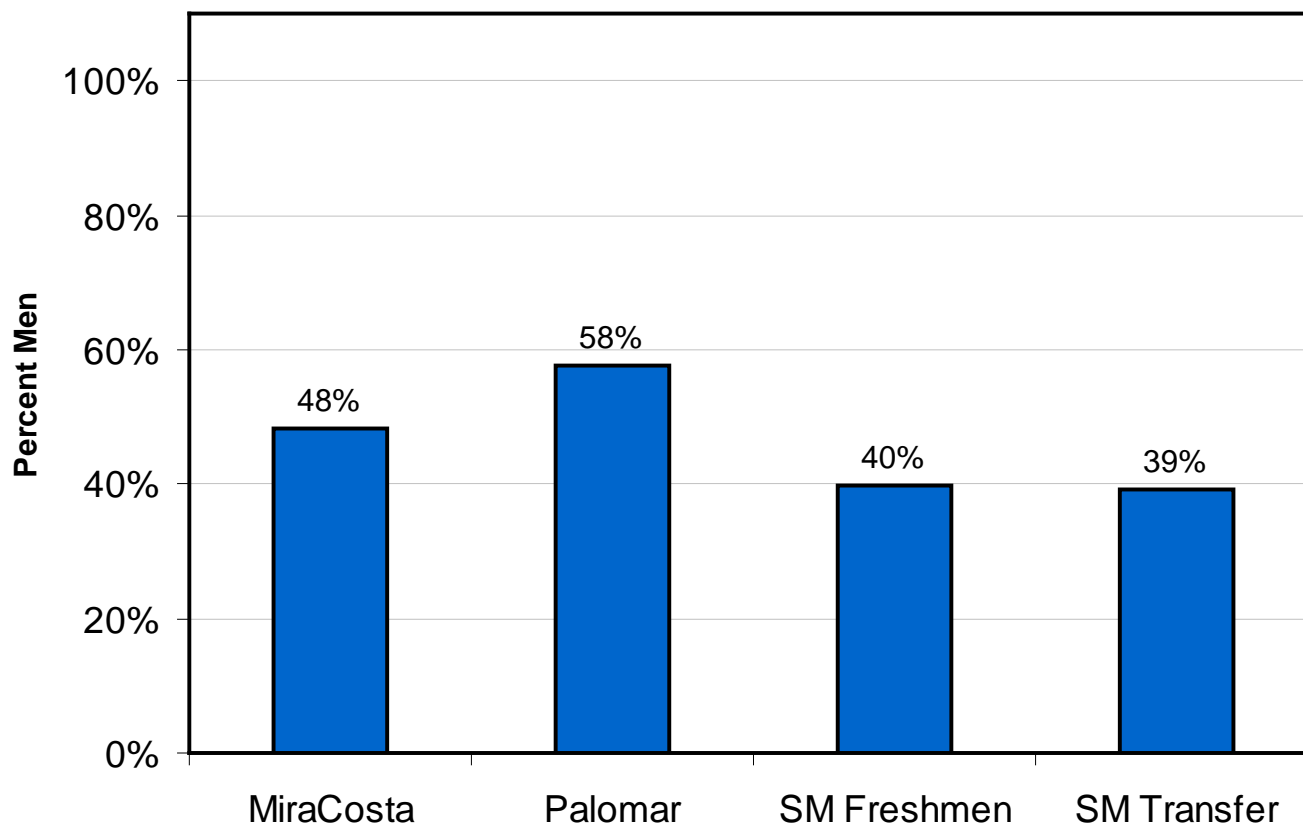
Demographics

Percentage of Students With and Without Transfer Plans Who are 19 or Younger at Entry by Community College (2000-03)



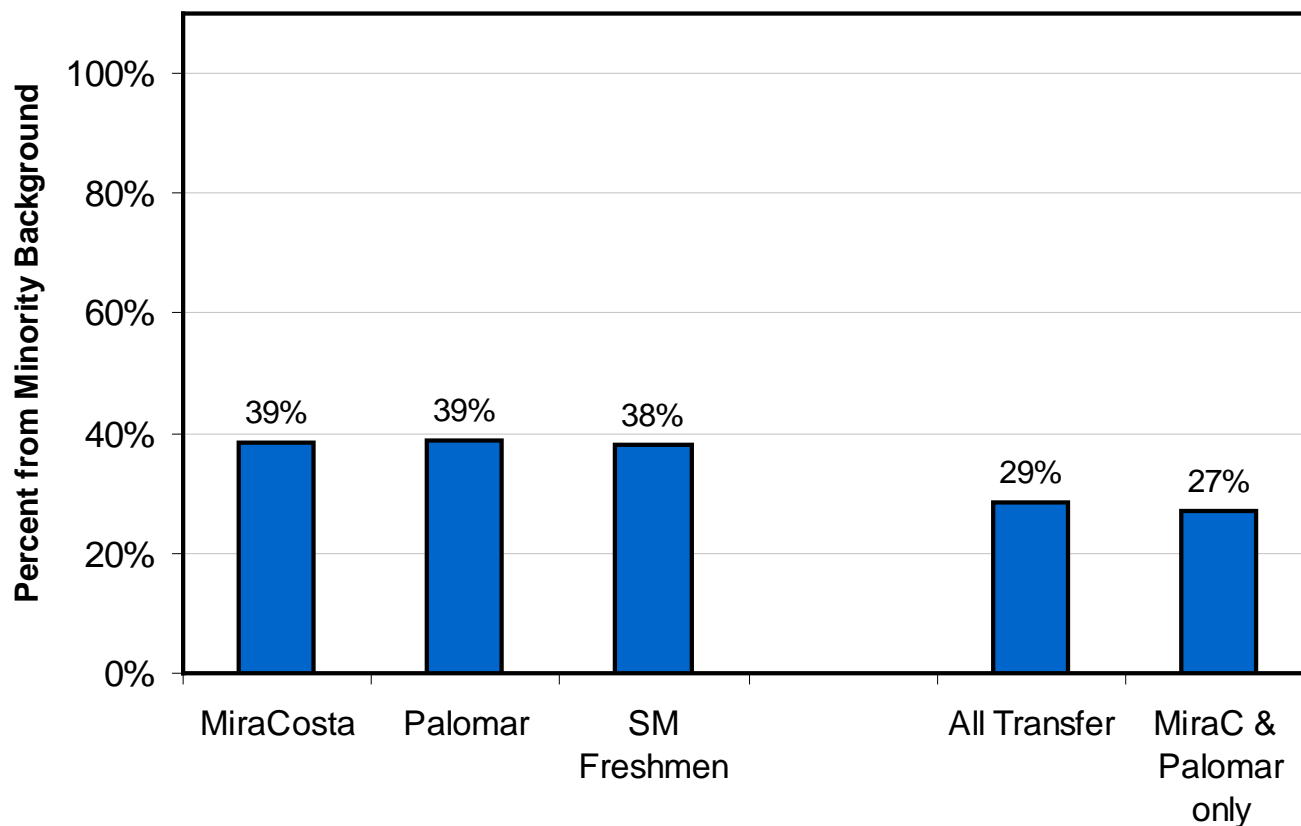
Demographics

**Percentage of Entering Students Who Are Men by NCHEA Institution
(2000-03 Entrants)**



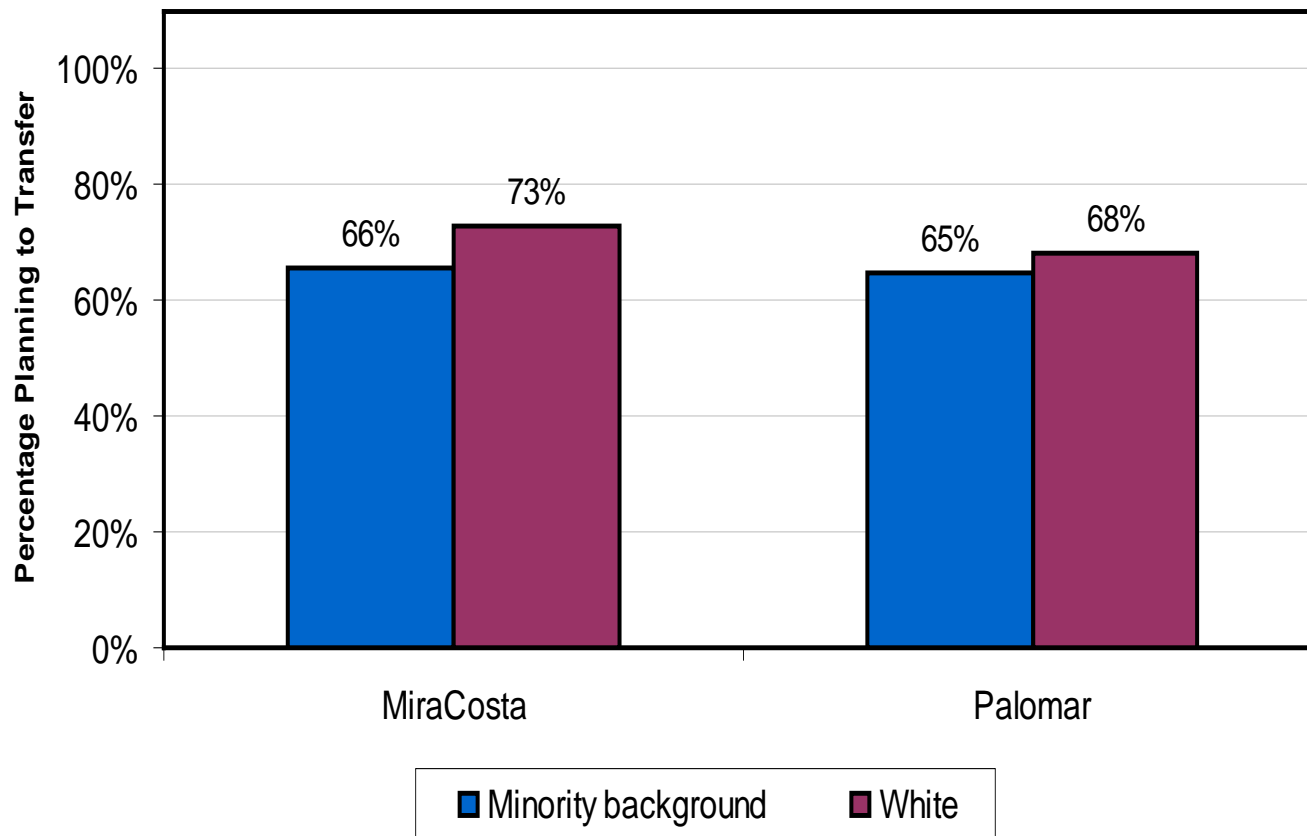
Demographics

Percentage of Entering Students Stemming From Racial and Ethnic Minority Backgrounds by NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)



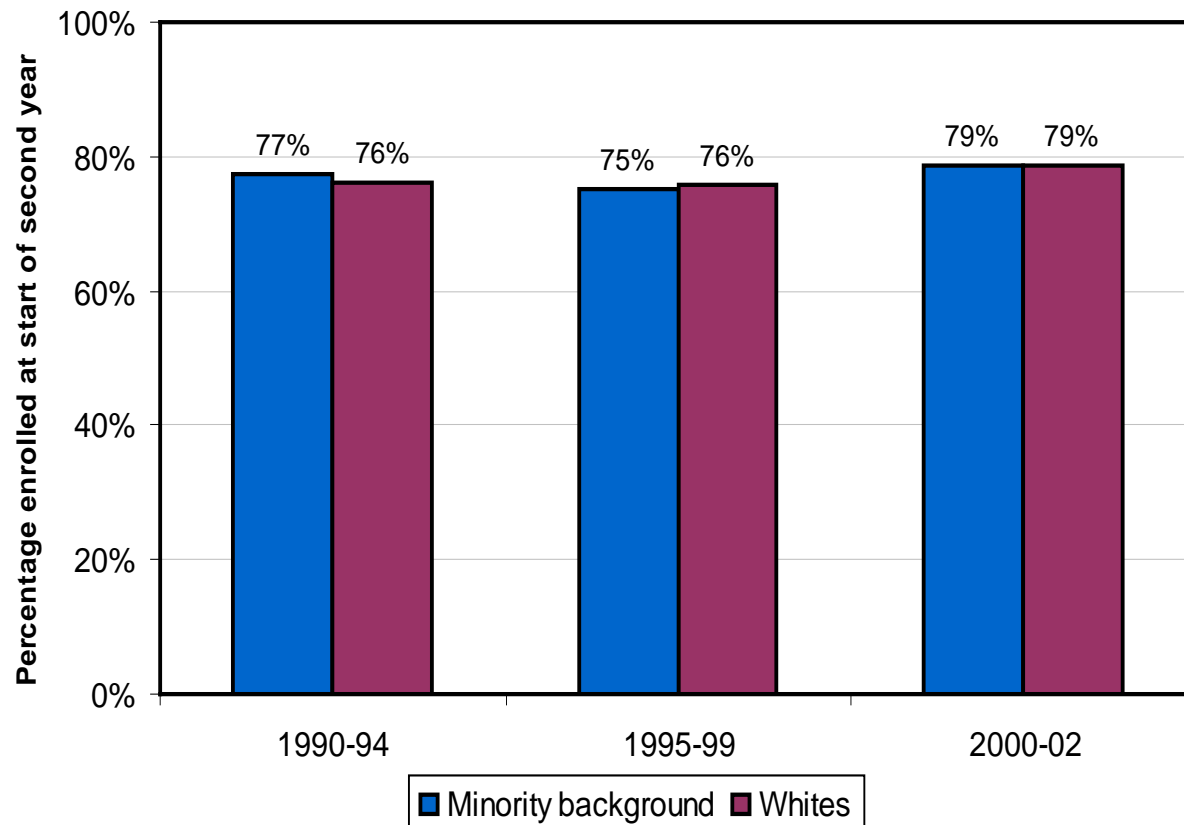
Demographics

Percentage of Community College Students Planning to Transfer by Racial and Ethnic Background and College (2000-03 Entrants)



Demographics

One-Year Continuation Rates of Transfer Students Entering CSUSM During the 1990-2002 Period by Racial and Ethnic Background and Entry Period





Preparation and Performance

Are they prepared for college-level work?

How do they perform when they get to college?



Preparation and Performance

- How prepared are students for college-level work?
 - High School GPA
 - Assessment/Placement Tests

High School GPA by College

First-time students: GPA of 2.5 or higher

San Marcos: 97%

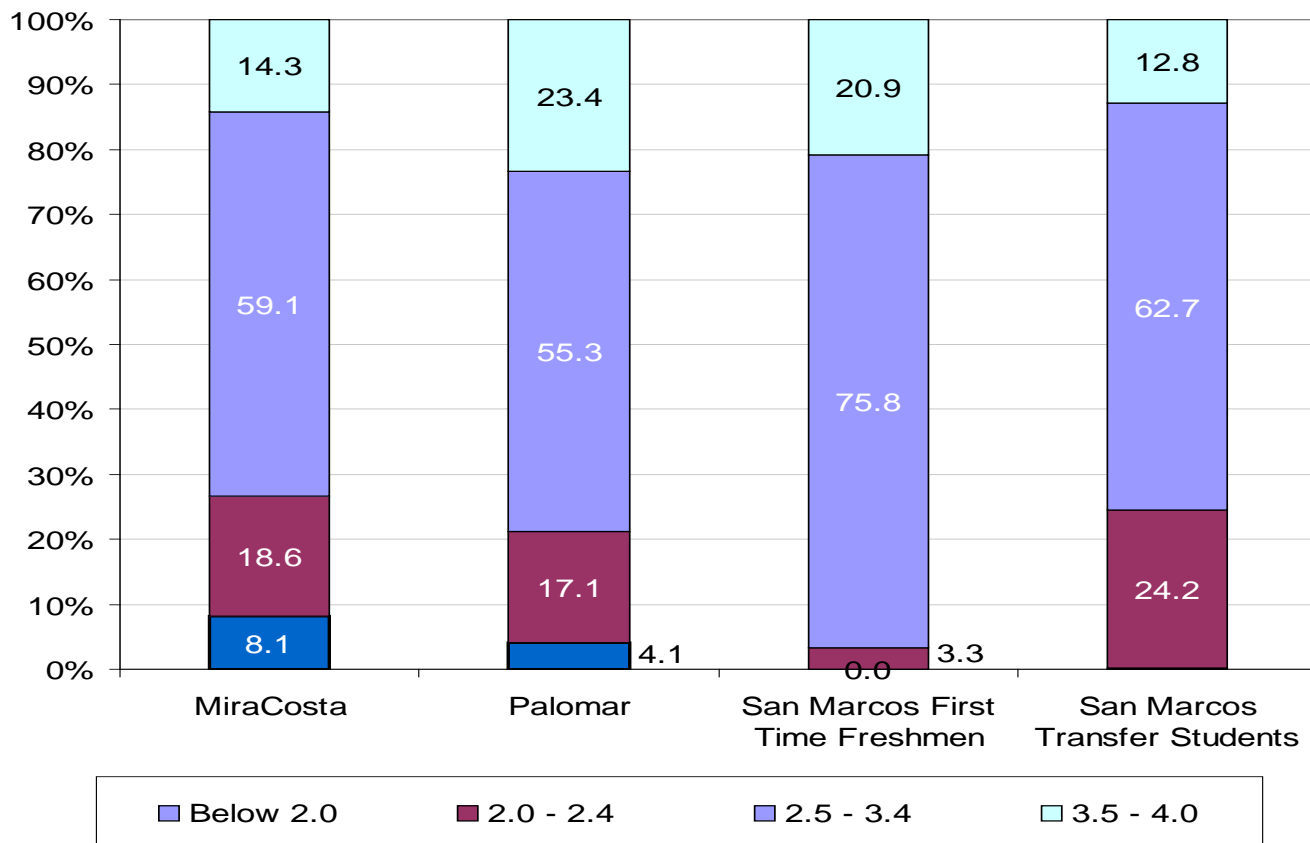
Palomar*: 79%

MiraCosta*: 74%

* Self-reported High School GPA

Preparation and Performance

High School GPA by NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)



Assessment Tests

- First-time student participation rates:
 - San Marcos 100%
 - Palomar & MiraCosta 60%
- Prepared for college-level English 40-50%
- Prepared for college-level math
 - San Marcos ~ 50%
 - Palomar and MiraCosta <25%

First Semester Performance:

Units Attempted

- San Marcos:
 - San Marcos first-time students 12.0 units
 - San Marcos transfer students 12.0 units
- Palomar 8.0 units
- MiraCosta 11.0 units

First Semester Performance:

Median GPA

- San Marcos:
 - San Marcos first-time students 3.04
 - San Marcos transfer students 3.22
- Palomar 2.54
- MiraCosta 2.50



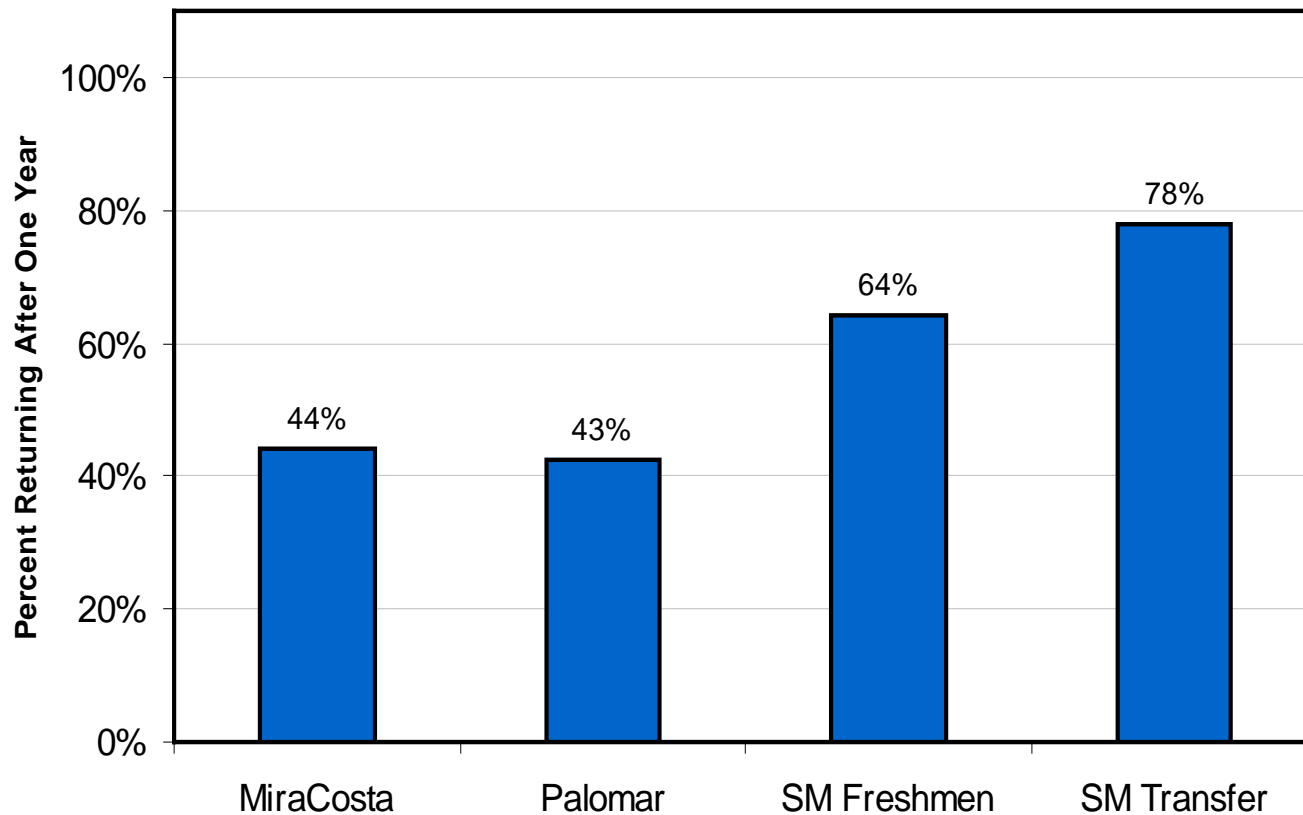
Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

Do they come back for their
second year...?

Do they complete their studies?

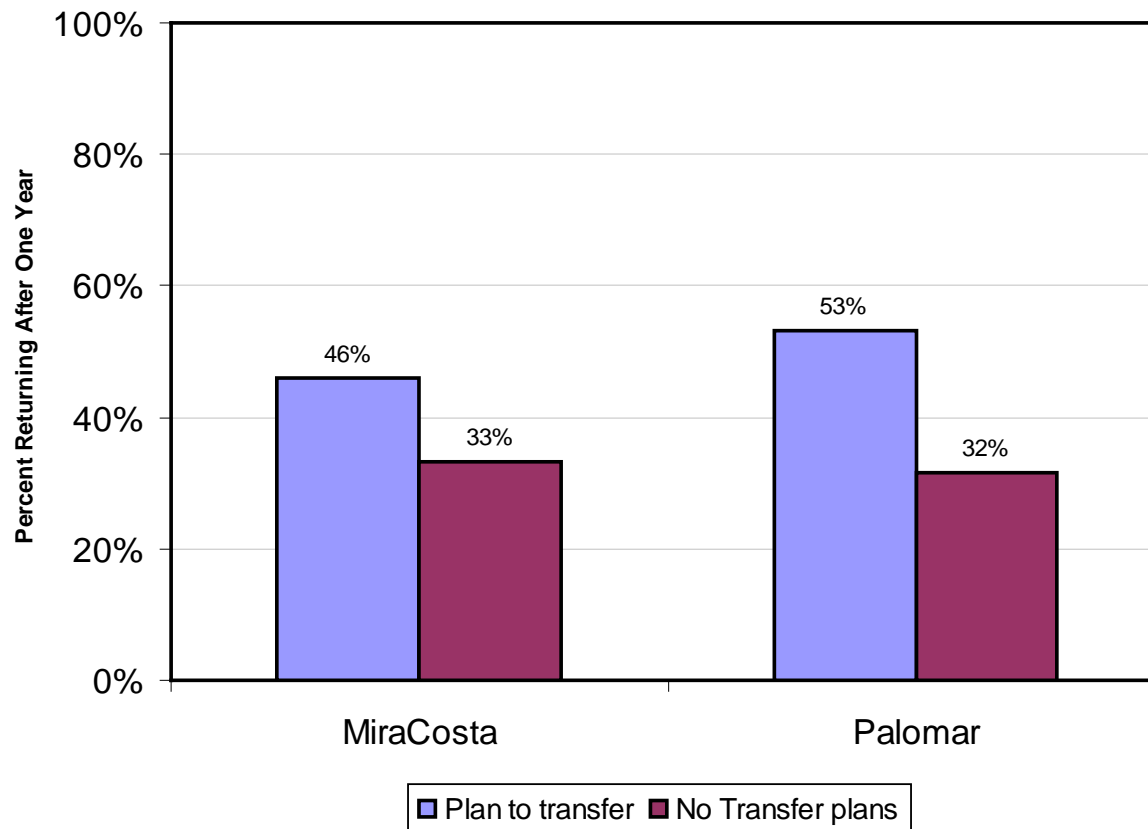
Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

One Year Continuation Rates for First-Year Students by NCHEA Institution (2000-02 Entrants)



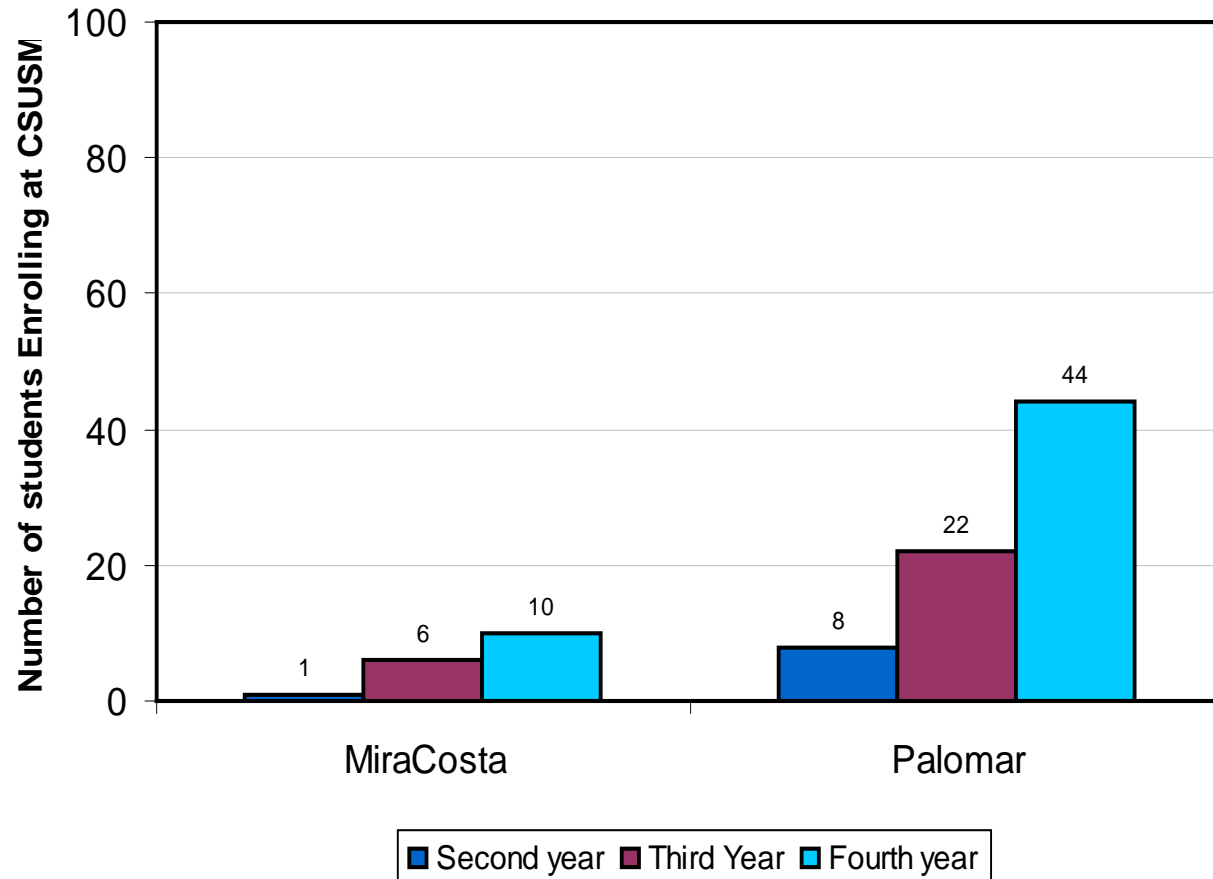
Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

One Year Continuation Rates for Community College First-Year Students by Transfer Intent (2000-02 Entrants)



Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

Number of Students Transferring to CSUSM from MiraCosta or Palomar by Year Since Entry at Community College (2000 CC Entrants)



What Happened to our Palomar Fall 2000 First-Year Students?

- For those who attempted 12 or more units
- 29% went to a university and/or received an AA/Certificate
 - 21% are still attending Palomar
 - 15% are no longer at Palomar, but have attended another two year college
 - 35% no record



Summary

- The number of first-year students on our campuses is large.
- Approximately, two-fifths of our first-year students come from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, a proportion that sinks to less than three-tenths among entering transfer students.
- A significant number of our first-year students need remediation (40-50% in English, and an even high percentage in Math).



Summary

- More than half of our first-year community college students do not return to their original community college for their second year.
- The length of time it takes for most community college students to transfer or earn an AA or certificate is longer than “traditionally” assumed.