

Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Surveys Methodology

The Freshman Survey is traditionally administered as a paper survey, but is also available on the web. All degree-granting, accredited institutions of higher education that respond to the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) are invited to participate in the Freshman Surveys (Sax et al. 2001).

CIRP also collects data on the national population of all higher education institutions that admit first-time freshmen, grant at least a baccalaureate-level degree, and are listed in the Opening Fall Enrollment of the U.S. Department of Education's IPEDS. All operating institutions that meet these requirements and have a first-time, full-time freshman class of at least 25 students are included in the national population of institutions. Importantly, this national population includes those of “higher education,” not “postsecondary education”; most proprietary, special vocational and semiprofessional programs are excluded. Only institutions with regional accreditation are included. The population of eligible institutions, by institution type, along with my Freshman Survey sample of institutions, are listed in Table A-1.

All institutions that are eligible to participate in the Freshman Surveys, including two-year colleges, are divided into stratification groups based on *type* (two-year college, four-year college, or university); *control* (public, private nonsectarian, Catholic, or Other Religious); *selectivity level* (low, medium, high, or very high); and *institutional race* (predominantly non-Black or predominantly Black).¹ The institutional sample size, as well as the number of participating respondents in my dataset, are listed by survey year in Table A-2.

¹ Institutional selectivity level is based on the average composite SAT score of the entering class. See Sax et al. (2001, 2002) and Sax et al. (2003) for additional information.

Table A-1: Institutional Population and Sample: Number of Institutions by Type and Year

	2001		2002		2003	
	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	Population	Sample
Public university— low select	46	11	48	12	48	12
Public university— medium select	37	13	34	10	34	11
Public university— high select	41	20	42	23	42	18
Private university— medium select	25	20	24	18	23	18
Private university— high select	22	14	21	13	22	14
Private university— very high select	23	15	25	17	25	17
Public 4-yr college— low select	119	37	118	25	118	29
Public 4-yr college— medium select	134	46	135	47	135	41
Public 4-yr college— high select	89	39	88	32	88	29
Public 4-yr college—	19	3	21	3	23	4

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unknown select						
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—low select	103	33	98	25	104	29
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—medium select	90	42	90	47	91	37
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—high select	93	56	91	56	91	53
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—very high select	50	41	55	45	54	43
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—unknown select	48	8	47	7	53	6
Catholic 4-yr college—low select	59	26	59	28	60	23
Catholic 4-yr college—medium select	56	32	58	31	57	33
Catholic 4-yr college—high select	50	35	51	37	51	36
Catholic 4-yr college—	4	1	4	1	4	1

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unknown select						
Other religious 4-yr college—very low select	54	17	51	11	51	15
Other religious 4-yr college—low select	69	28	72	37	72	23
Other religious 4-yr college—medium select	94	37	94	42	94	32
Other religious 4-yr college—high select	90	62	94	72	94	66
Other religious 4-yr college—unknown select	21	3	21	2	21	1
Public 2-yr college—very low enroll	—	3	—	2	—	3
Public 2-yr college—low enroll	—	4	—	4	—	2
Public 2-yr college—medium enroll	—	6	—	4	—	5
Public 2-yr college—high enroll	—	2	—	1	—	1
Public 2-yr college—	—	7	—	4	—	7

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very high enroll						
Private 2-yr college—very low enroll	—	2	—	2	—	2
Private 2-yr college—low enroll	—	10	—	8	—	6
Private 2-yr college—medium enroll	—	3	—	1	—	2
Private 2-yr college—high enroll	—	2	—	1	—	0
Public 4-yr college—predom Black	37	9	37	11	37	13
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—predom Black	48	7	47	6	47	5
Public 2-yr college—predom Black	—	1	—	1	—	1
Private 2-yr college—predom Black	—	1	—	1	—	0
Other religious college 4-yr—predom Black	—	6	—	7	—	6
Catholic 4-yr college—predom Black	—	0	—	1	—	1
Public university—	—	1	—	0	—	0

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predom Black						
Private university—predom Black	—	1	—	1	—	1
Institutional type unknown	—	41	—	1	—	3
TOTAL	1,521	745	1,525	697	1,539	649

Notes: “—” indicates information not available. See Sax et al. (2001, 2002, 2003) for additional information.

Table A-2: Institutional Sample: Number of Participants by Type and Year.

	2001		2002		2003	
	Schools	Students	Schools	Students	Schools	Students
Public university— low select	11	11,887	12	19,213	12	17,380
Public university— medium select	13	29,306	10	24,446	11	24,524
Public university— high select	20	51,900	23	59,378	18	49,691
Private university— medium select	20	19,116	18	18,628	18	20,748
Private university— high select	14	19,734	13	14,023	14	15,724
Private university— very high select	15	15,404	17	17,542	17	18,969
Public 4-yr college— low select	37	23,770	25	15,919	29	19,861
Public 4-yr college— medium select	46	41,124	47	41,489	41	36,135
Public 4-yr college— high select	39	37,192	32	34,486	29	27,223
Public 4-yr college—	3	870	3	1,762	4	1,143

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unknown select						
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—low select	33	9,541	25	5,587	29	7,466
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—medium select	42	13,262	47	15,190	37	14,448
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—high select	56	23,255	56	21,110	53	22,014
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—very high select	41	16,770	45	19,197	43	19,026
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—unknown select	8	2,111	7	961	6	893
Catholic 4-yr college—low select	26	5,338	28	6,020	23	5,481
Catholic 4-yr college—medium select	32	7,702	31	7,463	33	8,165
Catholic 4-yr college—high select	35	16,744	37	17,619	36	16,680
Catholic 4-yr college—	1	84	1	108	1	7

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unknown select						
Other religious 4-yr college—very low select	17	3,464	11	2,131	15	2,709
Other religious 4-yr college—low select	28	6,814	37	8,523	23	5,406
Other religious 4-yr college—medium select	37	9,468	42	10,250	32	7,783
Other religious 4-yr college—high select	62	22,261	72	26,519	66	24,934
Other religious 4-yr college—unknown selectivity	3	281	2	430	1	93
Public 2-yr college—very low enroll	3	507	2	154	3	269
Public 2-yr college—low enroll	4	750	4	759	2	223
Public 2-yr college—medium enroll	6	1,305	4	996	5	1,477
Public 2-yr college—high enroll	2	704	1	604	1	658
Public 2-yr college—	7	4,254	4	3,135	7	3,648

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very high enroll						
Private 2-yr college—very low enroll	2	341	2	207	2	192
Private 2-yr college—low enroll	10	1,290	8	1,241	6	1,088
Private 2-yr college—medium enroll	3	837	1	90	2	410
Private 2-yr college—high enroll	2	929	1	637	0	0
Public 4-yr college—predom Black	9	4,301	11	4,192	13	6,112
Nonsectarian 4-yr college—predom Black	7	2,308	6	1,579	5	1,575
Public 2-yr college—predom Black	1	58	1	278	1	321
Private 2-yr college—predom Black	1	57	1	68	0	0
Other religious college 4-yr—predom Black	6	2,045	7	2,409	6	1,368
Catholic 4-yr college—predom Black	0	0	1	764	1	683
Public university—	1	219	0	0	0	0

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predom Black						
Private university— predom Black	1	660	1	326	1	383
Institutional type unknown	41	2,893	1	142	3	3,599
TOTAL	745	410,856	697	405,575	649	388,509

Question Wording and Response Coding

Race: “Please indicate the ethnic background of yourself, your father, and your mother. (Mark all that apply in each column.)” There are nine response options: White/Caucasian; Black/African American; American Indian/Alaskan Native; Asian American/Asian; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; Mexican American/Chicano; Puerto Rican; Other Latino; Other. For simplicity, the categories Mexican American/Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Other Latino are combined into a single “Latino” variable. I examine only respondents who mark one parent as White and the other parent as either Asian, Latino, or Black.

Parents’ Status: “Are your parents both alive and living with each other; both alive, divorced or living apart; [or] one or both deceased?” 0=Parent(s) deceased or living apart; 1=Parents living together.

Gender: 0=male, 1=female.

Income: “What is your best estimate of your parents' total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes.” 1=\$29,999 or less; 2=\$30,000-\$59,999; 3=\$60,000-\$99,999; 4=\$100,000 or more.

Median Household Income: Median income of respondent's parents' home zip code (“median income” as defined by 2000 Census data); all incomes coded continuously.

White Parent’s Education: What is the highest level of formal education obtained by [White parent]?” 1=High school diploma or less; 2=Some college; 3=College degree; 4=Some graduate school or graduate degree.

Minority Parent’s Education: “What is the highest level of formal education obtained by [Minority parent]?” 1=High school diploma or less; 2=Some college; 3=College degree; 4=Some graduate school or graduate degree.

Percent Minority: Percent of respondent's parents' home zip code that identified as either Asian, non-Hispanic; White Hispanic; or Black, non-Hispanic (as defined by 2000 Census data).

Religion: “Current religious preference.” Six indicators created: Baptist; Roman Catholic; Jewish; Other Christian (including Eastern Orthodox, Episcopal, LDS, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, Seventh Day Adventist, Unitarian, United Church of Christ); Other Religion (including Buddhist, Islamic, and Hindu); None.

Home Region: Indicators created for 5 areas:
South (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV);
Pacific West (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA);
Midwest (IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, OH, WI);
Mountains/Plains (AZ, CO, ID, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, ND, SD, UT, WY);
Northeast (CT, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT).

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Native English Speaker: “Is English your native language?” 0=non-native, 1=native.

Population Density: Logged values for respondent's parents' home zip code population density (matching respondents' Freshman Survey zip codes with 2000 Census data).

Year Surveyed: Indicators created for three years: 2001, 2002, 2003.

Figure A-1: Racial Parentage as a Predictor of Respondent Identification—Multiple-Race and “Other” Identifiers.

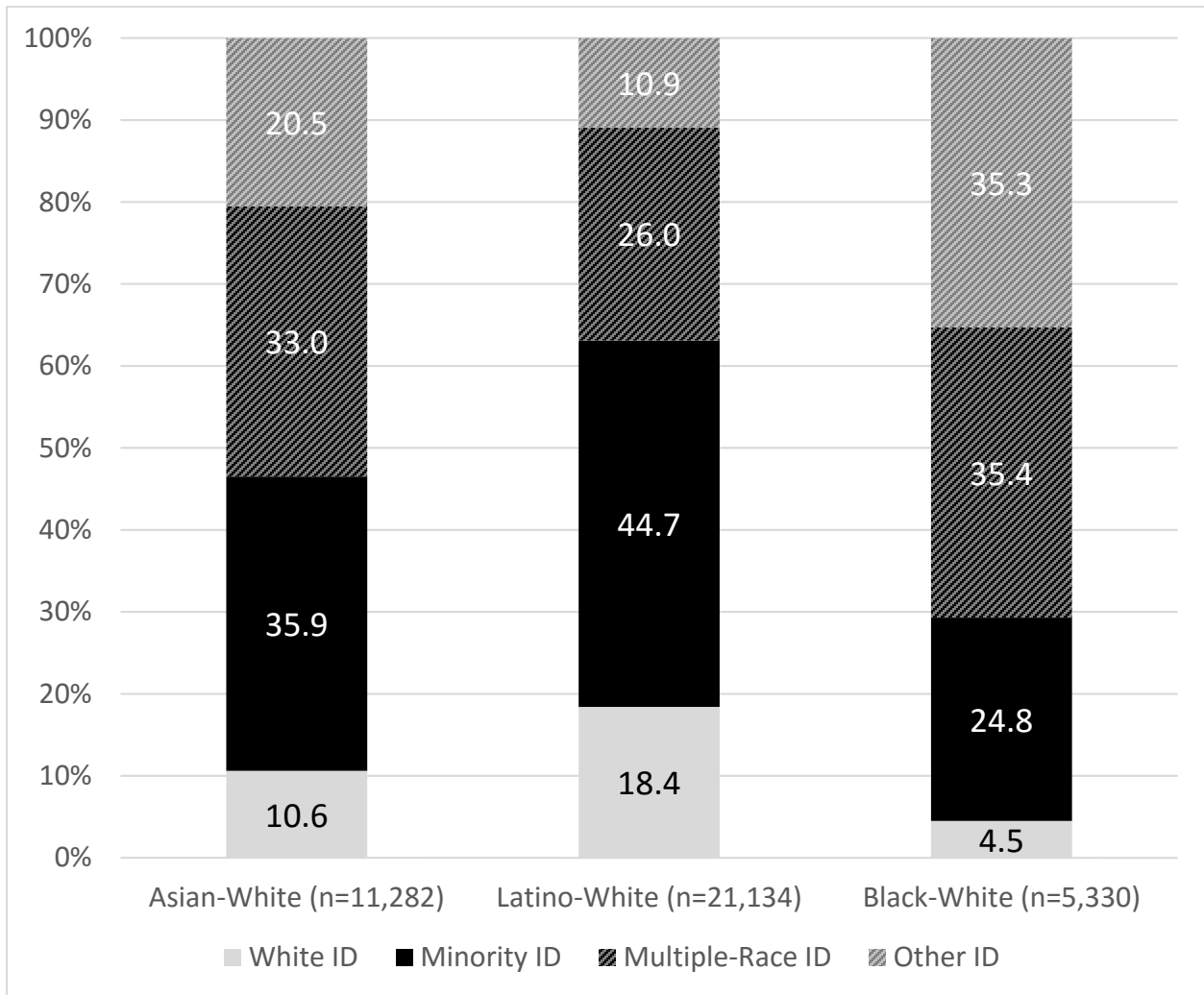


Table A-3: Descriptive Statistics and Percentage of Biracials Identifying as White, Asian, or Multiracial. N=11,282

	N	Percent of Sample	Percent Identifying as White	Percent Identifying as Asian	Percent Identifying as Multiracial
Parents' Marital Status					
Married Parents	8,379	75.0	10.1	34.7	55.2
Unmarried Parents	2,795	25.0	11.9	39.4	48.7
Gender					
Male	5,122	45.5	12.4	37.5	50.1
Female	6,145	54.5	9.0	34.6	56.4
Family Income					
Less than \$30,00	1,057	10.5	9.4	44.6	46.1
\$30,000-\$59,999	2,130	21.2	10.2	42.4	47.5
\$60,000-\$99,999	2,847	28.4	10.9	36.6	52.5
\$100,000 or more	3,999	39.9	10.9	29.8	59.3
Median Household Income					
Lowest Quartile	1,506	14.8	11.3	45.2	43.6
Highest Quartile	3,448	34.0	11.3	29.5	59.2
White Parent's Education					
High School or Less	1,779	15.8	12.3	43.8	43.9
Some College	1,980	17.6	10.8	40.7	48.5
College Grad	3,266	29.0	11.7	34.8	53.5
Grad School	4,257	37.7	8.9	31.2	59.9
Asian Parent's Education					
High School or Less	2,412	21.4	9.3	48.1	42.7
Some College	1,899	16.8	11.4	36.1	52.5
College Grad	3,293	29.2	11.9	33.7	54.5
Grad School	3,678	32.6	9.7	30.0	60.3

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Religion					
Baptist	742	6.8	12.4	45.6	42.1
Catholic	2,365	21.6	11.8	36.8	51.4
Other Christian	3,210	29.4	12.3	38.4	49.3
Jewish	175	1.6	18.3	21.1	60.6
Other Religion	718	6.6	7.0	39.7	53.3
No Religion	3,724	34.1	8.3	31.5	60.2
Region					
Pacific	3,232	30.8	7.2	25.7	67.1
South	2,466	23.5	13.6	45.5	40.9
Mountains/Plains	494	4.7	10.5	44.9	44.5
Northeast	2,524	24.1	12.9	34.7	52.4
Midwest	1,772	16.9	9.8	41.4	48.9
Native Language					
English	10,756	96.2	10.7	34.9	54.5
Non-English	420	3.8	7.4	61.9	30.7
Percent Asian in Zip					
Lowest Quartile	1,076	10.6	14.3	50.7	34.9
Highest Quartile	4,455	43.9	8.3	26.2	65.4

Table A-4: Descriptive Statistics and Percentage of Biracials Identifying as White, Latino, or Multiracial. N=21,134

	N	Percent of Sample	Percent Identifying as White	Percent Identifying as Latino	Percent Identifying as Multiracial
Parents' Marital Status					
Married Parents	13,895	66.4	18.8	44.4	36.8
Unmarried Parents	7,020	33.6	17.6	45.3	37.1
Gender					
Male	9,077	43.0	20.2	47.5	32.4
Female	12,034	57.0	17.1	42.6	40.3
Family Income					
Less than \$30,00	2,688	14.1	15.8	47.6	36.6
\$30,000-\$59,999	4,808	25.3	17.3	46.3	36.4
\$60,000-\$99,999	5,511	29.0	17.7	44.3	38.0
\$100,000 or more	6,027	31.7	21.2	43.4	35.4
Median Household Income					
Lowest Quartile	3,964	20.5	17.5	47.0	35.5
Highest Quartile	5,246	27.2	20.4	42.6	36.9
White Parent's Education					
High School or Less	5,152	24.4	17.8	44.1	38.1
Some College	4,961	23.5	17.5	46.0	36.5
College Grad	5,795	27.4	19.5	43.3	37.2
Grad School	5,226	24.7	18.8	45.5	35.7
Latino Parent's Education					
High School or Less	6,191	29.3	17.6	44.4	38.0
Some College	5,265	24.9	17.8	42.9	39.4
College Grad	5,057	23.9	19.6	44.9	35.5
Grad School	4,621	21.9	19.0	46.9	34.2

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Religion					
Baptist	1,217	5.9	25.8	43.3	30.9
Catholic	8,756	42.5	16.4	46.9	36.7
Other Christian	5,361	26.0	18.7	45.1	36.2
Jewish	548	2.7	28.5	39.1	32.5
Other Religion	764	3.7	20.6	42.7	36.8
No Religion	3,974	19.3	18.5	41.9	39.6
Region					
Pacific	5,067	25.5	15.9	39.0	45.1
South	5,960	29.9	21.0	49.3	29.7
Mountains/Plains	1,364	6.9	16.9	49.6	33.5
Northeast	4,652	23.4	22.3	37.1	40.7
Midwest	2,869	14.4	13.6	52.0	34.4
Native Language					
English	19,992	95.8	18.8	43.5	37.7
Non-English	879	4.2	9.2	70.5	20.3
Percent Latino in Zip					
Lowest Quartile	1,581	8.2	24.9	46.7	28.5
Highest Quartile	9,898	51.3	16.2	42.9	40.9

Table A-5: Descriptive Statistics and Percentage of Biracials Identifying as White, Black, or Multiracial. N=5,330

	N	Percent of Sample	Percent Identifying as White	Percent Identifying as Black	Percent Identifying as Multiracial
Parents' Marital Status					
Married Parents	2,526	48.2	5.3	24.1	70.7
Unmarried Parents	2,719	51.8	3.8	25.5	70.7
Gender					
Male	2,420	45.5	5.2	30.5	64.3
Female	2,901	54.5	4.0	20.1	75.9
Family Income					
Less than \$30,00	1,132	23.6	3.7	26.2	70.1
\$30,000-\$59,999	1,447	30.2	4.2	25.6	70.3
\$60,000-\$99,999	1,228	25.6	3.9	25.9	70.2
\$100,000 or more	987	20.6	6.7	21.2	72.1
Median Household Income					
Lowest Quartile	1,431	29.7	3.6	29.4	67.1
Highest Quartile	841	17.4	6.9	20.3	72.8
White Parent's Education					
High School or Less	1,486	27.9	4.6	26.6	68.8
Some College	1,305	24.5	4.7	24.5	70.8
College Grad	1,360	25.5	5.3	25.4	69.3
Grad School	1,179	22.1	3.4	22.3	74.3
Black Parent's Education					
High School or Less	1,807	33.9	4.4	25.2	70.5
Some College	1,248	23.4	4.2	24.0	71.9
College Grad	1,181	22.2	5.1	24.8	70.1
Grad School	1,094	20.5	4.6	25.2	70.2

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Religion					
Baptist	749	14.7	3.1	33.8	63.2
Catholic	849	16.6	4.4	23.8	71.9
Other Christian	1,697	33.3	4.6	24.7	70.7
Jewish	97	1.9	17.5	25.8	56.7
Other Religion	308	6.0	6.5	23.1	70.5
No Religion	1,402	27.5	4.1	21.3	74.5
Region					
Pacific	750	15.1	5.1	24.1	70.8
South	1,166	23.4	4.6	28.0	67.4
Mountains/Plains	259	5.2	6.6	30.1	63.3
Northeast	1,675	33.7	4.7	23.0	72.2
Midwest	1,125	22.6	3.3	22.9	73.8
Native Language					
English	5,164	98.2	4.5	24.8	70.7
Non-English	95	1.8	7.4	29.5	63.2
Percent Black in Zip					
Lowest Quartile	500	10.4	9.6	24.6	65.8
Highest Quartile	2,176	45.1	2.8	24.0	73.2

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