

# Crossing the Finish Line:

## Completing College at America's Public Universities

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## **Table 1-1. Flagship Universities by Selectivity Cluster**

### ***SEL I***

University of California–Berkeley  
University of California–Los Angeles (UCLA)  
University of Maryland–College Park  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill  
University of Virginia

### ***SEL II***

Pennsylvania State University  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
University of Florida  
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign  
University of Texas–Austin  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin–Madison

### ***SEL III***

Iowa State University  
Ohio State University  
Purdue University  
Stony Brook University  
University of Iowa  
University of Minnesota–Twin Cities  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
University of Oregon

**TABLE 1-2. State System Universities by Selectivity Cluster or HBCU Status**

**Maryland**

**SEL A**

University of Maryland–Baltimore County

**SEL B**

Frostburg State University

Salisbury University

Towson University

**HBCU**

Bowie State University

Coppin State University

University of Maryland–Eastern Shore

**Ohio**

**SEL A**

Miami University

**SEL B**

Bowling Green State University

Cleveland State University

Kent State University

Ohio University

Shawnee State University

University of Akron

University of Cincinnati

University of Toledo

Wright State University

Youngstown State University

**HBCU**

Central State University

**North Carolina**

**SEL A**

North Carolina State University

University of North Carolina–Asheville

**SEL B**

Appalachian State University

East Carolina University

University of North Carolina–Charlotte

University of North Carolina–Greensboro

University of North Carolina–Pembroke

University of North Carolina–Wilmington

Western Carolina University

**HBCU**

Elizabeth City State University

Fayetteville State University

North Carolina A&T University

North Carolina Central University

Winston–Salem State University

**Virginia**

**SEL A**

College of William and Mary

James Madison University

University of Mary Washington

Virginia Tech

**SEL B**

Christopher Newport University

George Mason University

Longwood University

Old Dominion University

Radford University

University of Virginia's College at Wise

Virginia Commonwealth University

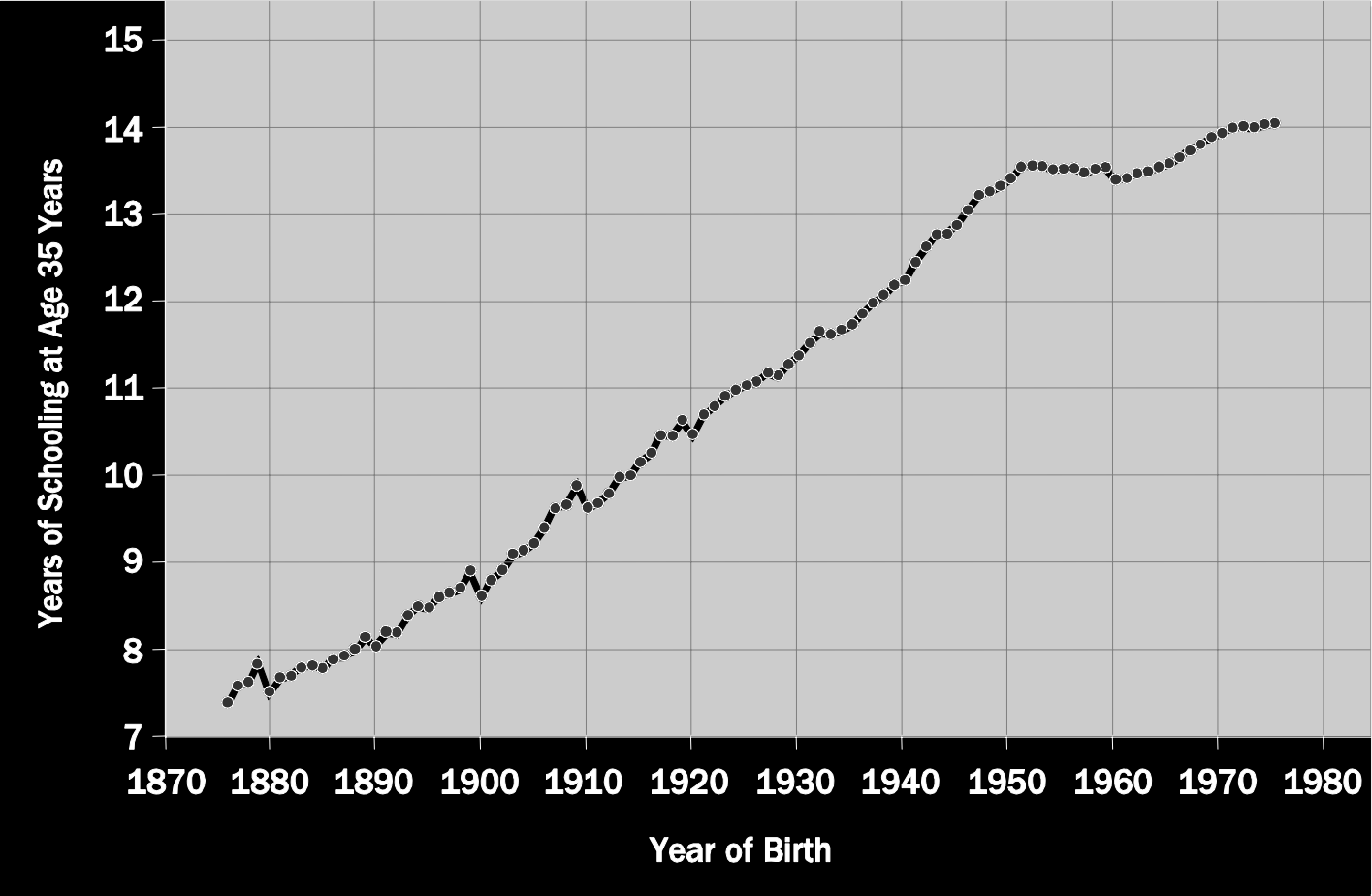
Virginia Military Institute

**HBCU**

Norfolk State University

Virginia State University

**Figure 1-1. Years of Schooling by Birth Cohorts, U.S. Native Born: 1876-1975**



**Figure 2-2. Bachelor's Degree Attainment by Socioeconomic Status**

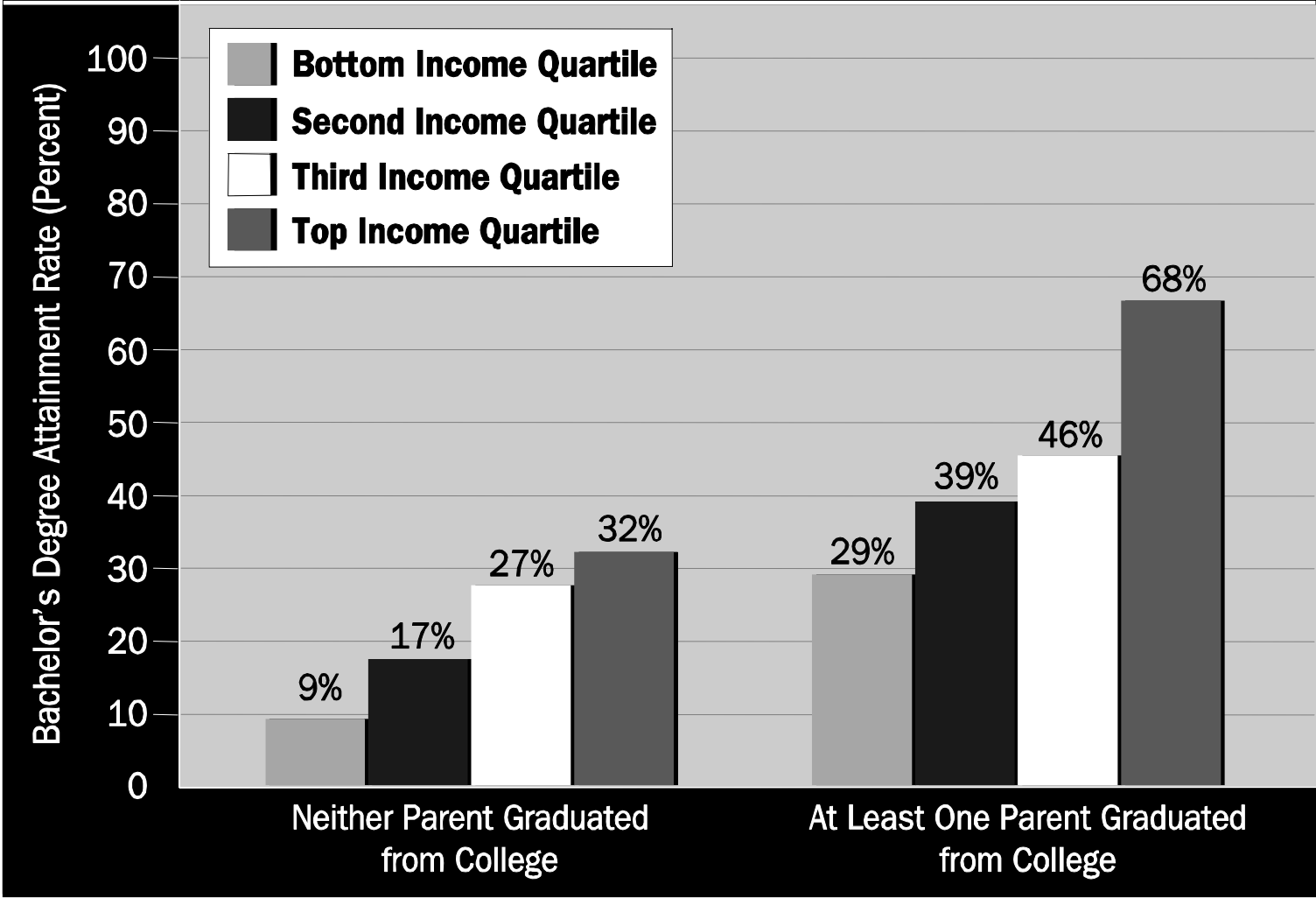
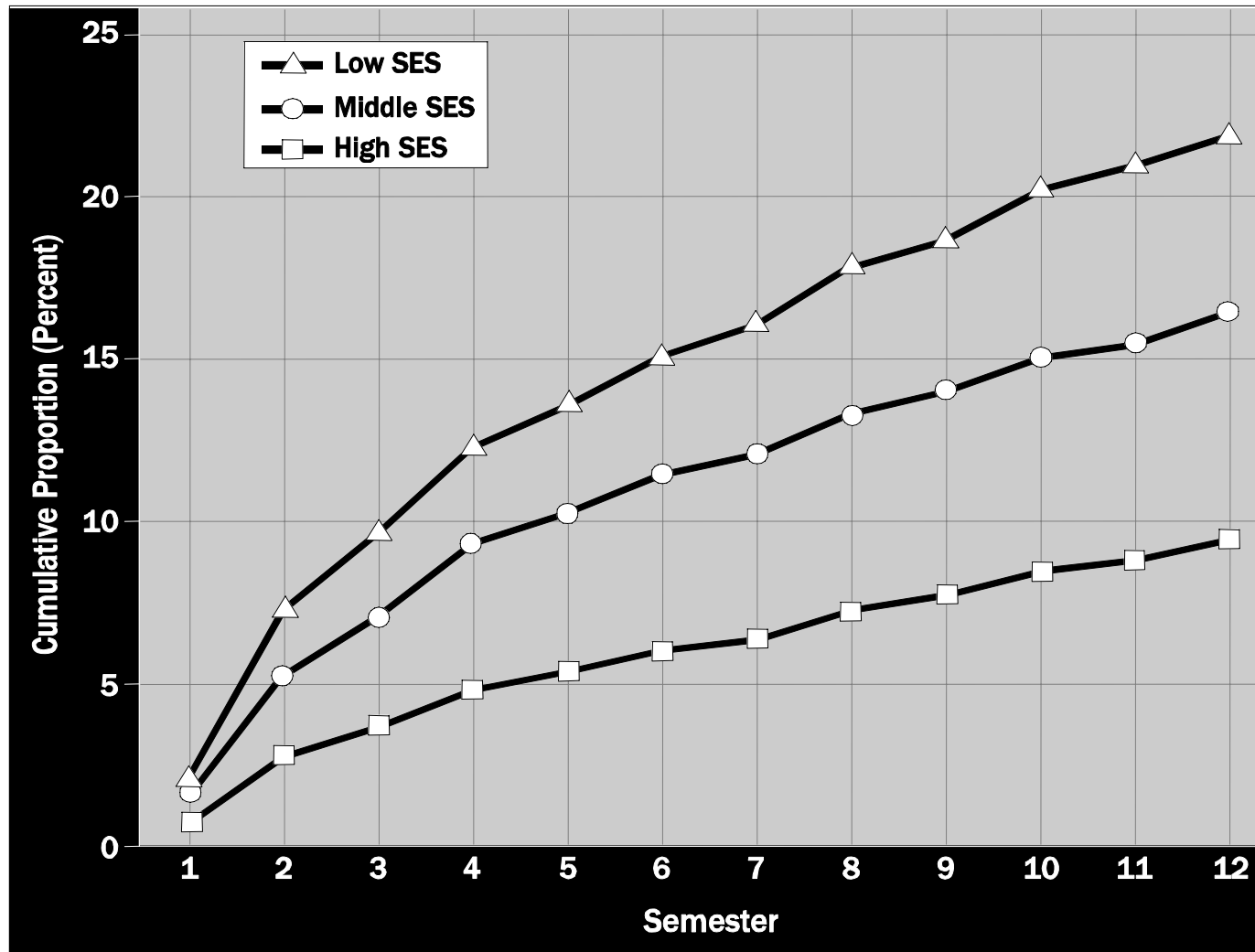
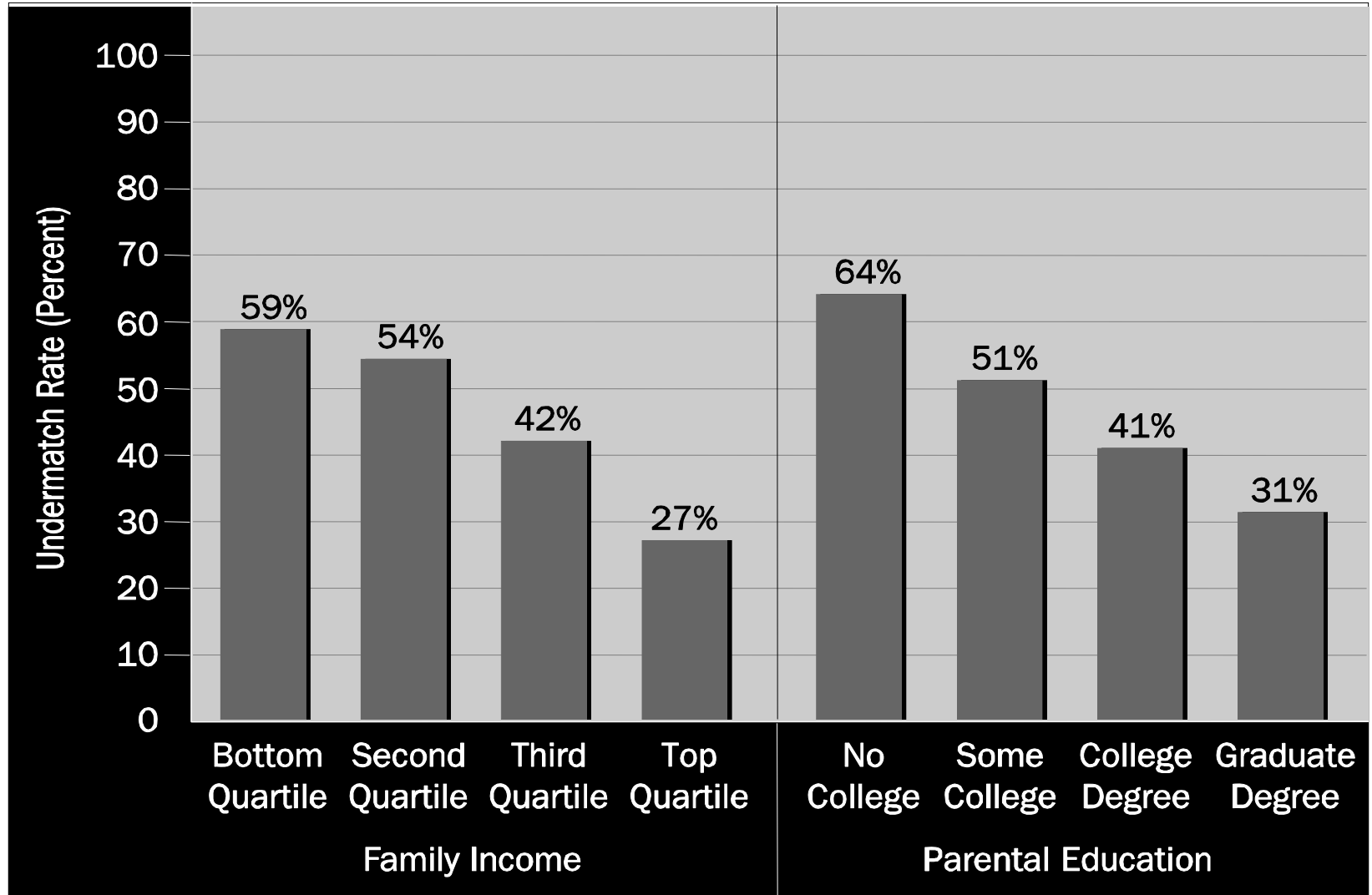


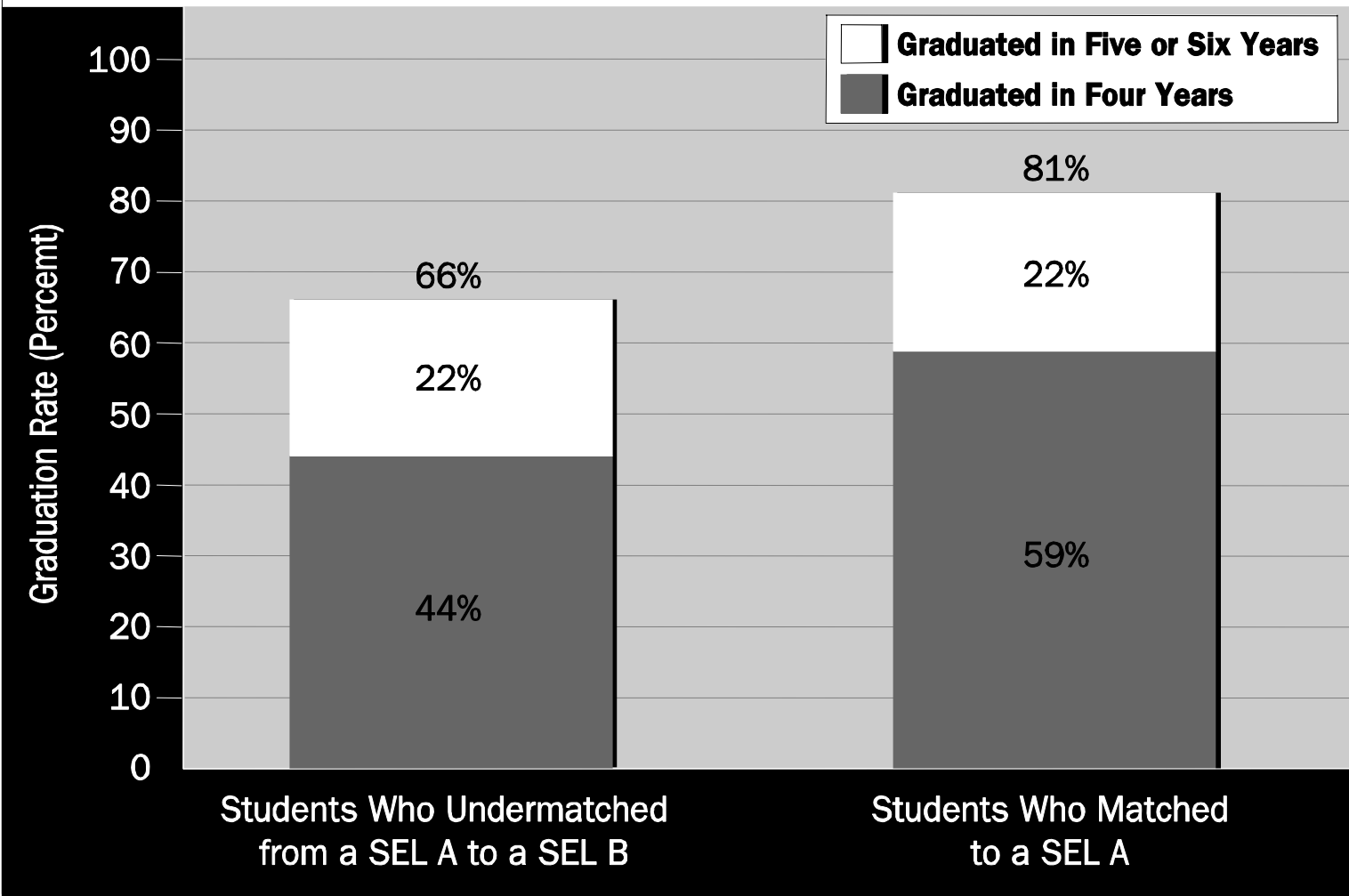
Figure 3-10. Cumulative Withdrawal Proportions by SES, Flagships



**Figure 5-5. Undermatch Rates by Family Income and Parental Education**

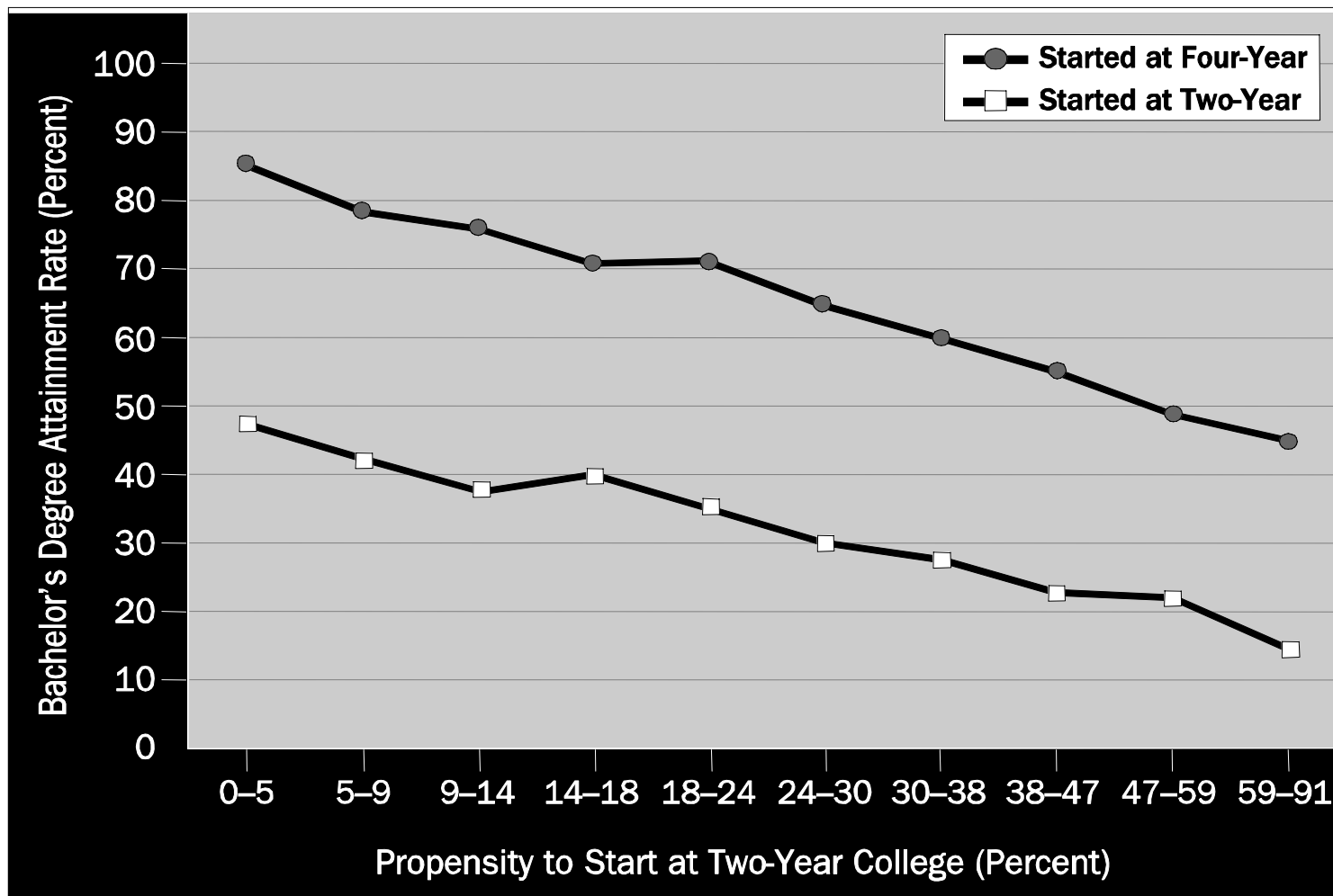


**Figure 5-7. Comparison of Overall Graduation Rates for Students Who Undermatched to a SEL B Institution and Students Who Did Not Undermatch**





**Figure 7-2. BA Attainment Rates of White Students Who Started at 4-year vs. 2-year Institution**



















## From the Most Selective Colleges, More Graduates

Students are less likely to graduate from less selective public colleges than more selective ones, even after controlling for the qualifications of the students. Below are the graduation rates for different groups of students, at different types of colleges.

### GRADUATION RATES

6-year graduation rates, for students who entered college in 1999.

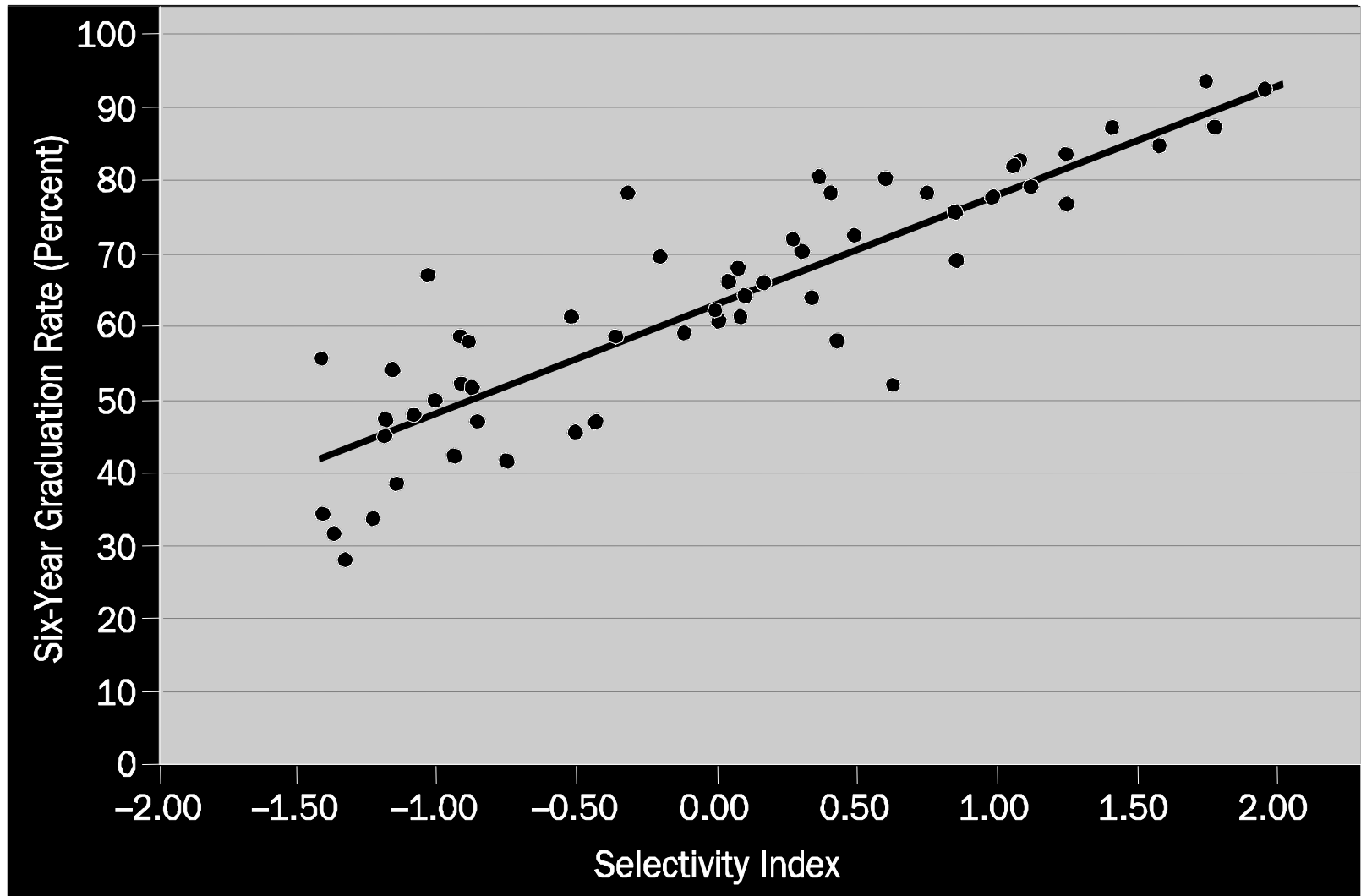
STUDENT GROUPINGS	MOST SELECTIVE	2ND MOST SELECTIVE	3RD MOST SELECTIVE	LEAST SELECTIVE
3.5 high school G.P.A. or higher, 1,200 SAT or higher	89% 	82% 	71% 	59% 
3.5 or higher and 1,000 to 1,190, or 3 to 3.5 and 1,200 or higher	83% 	75% 	63% 	62% 
3 to 3.5 and 1,000 to 1,190	75% 	67% 	56% 	50% 
Less than 3 or less than 1,000 or both	71% 	60% 	52% 	48% 

Note: Selectivity of colleges is based on average SAT scores of student body. Colleges in the most selective group have an average SAT score of more than 1,200; those in the least selective group have an average score of less than 1,000.

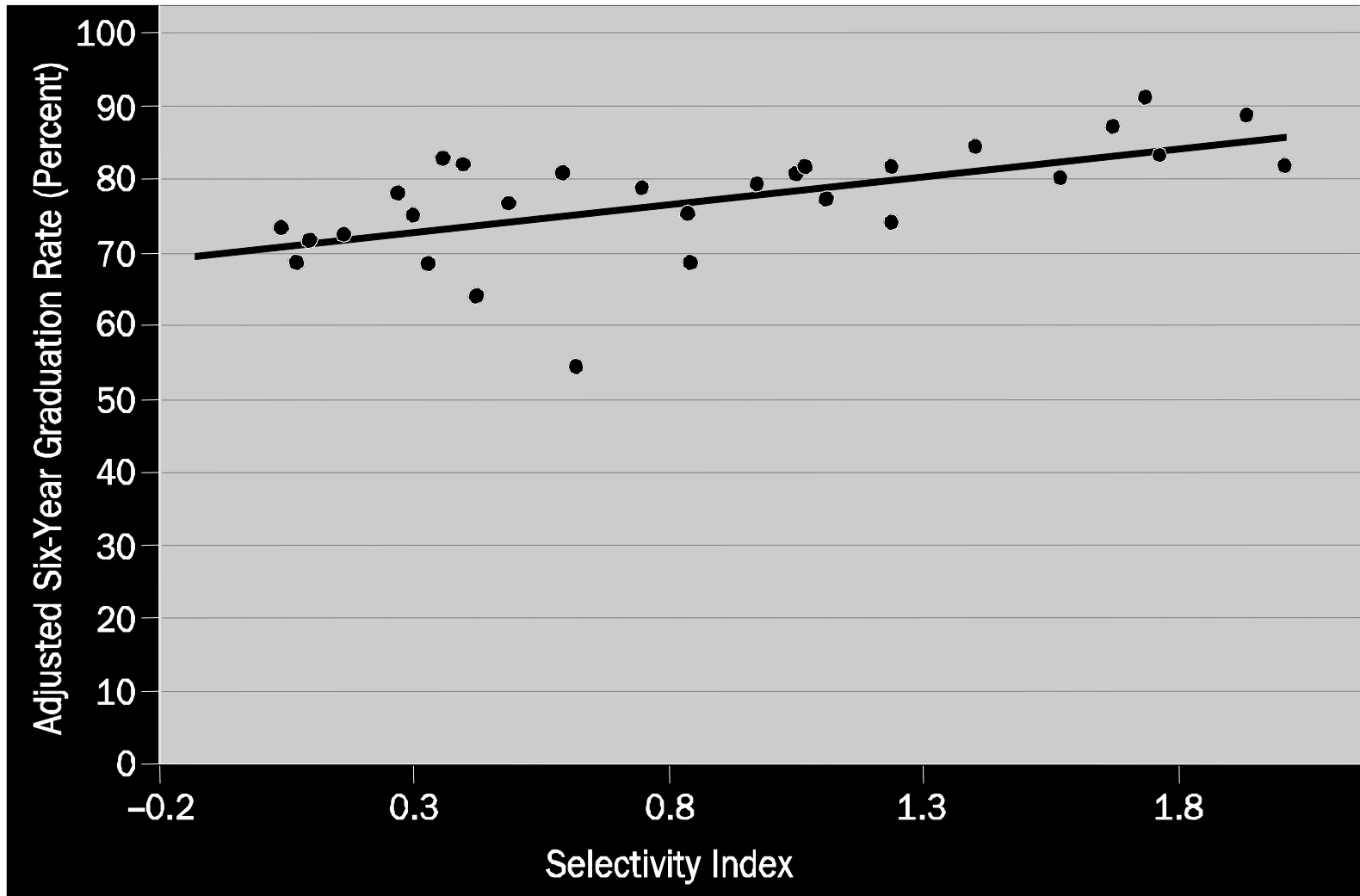
Sources: William G. Bowen, Matthew M. Chingos, Michael S. McPherson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

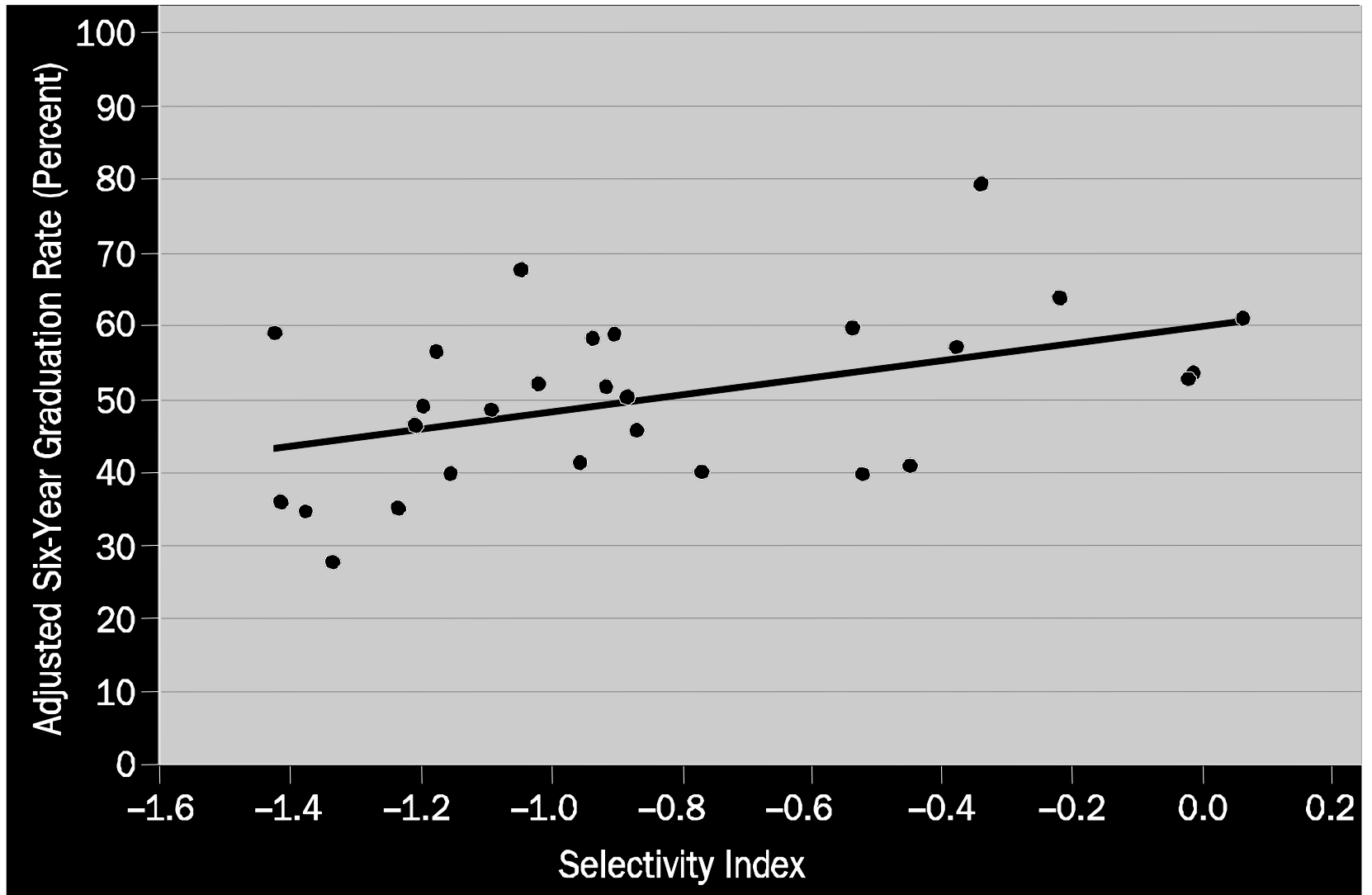
Figure 10-1. 6-year Graduation Rates vs. Selectivity



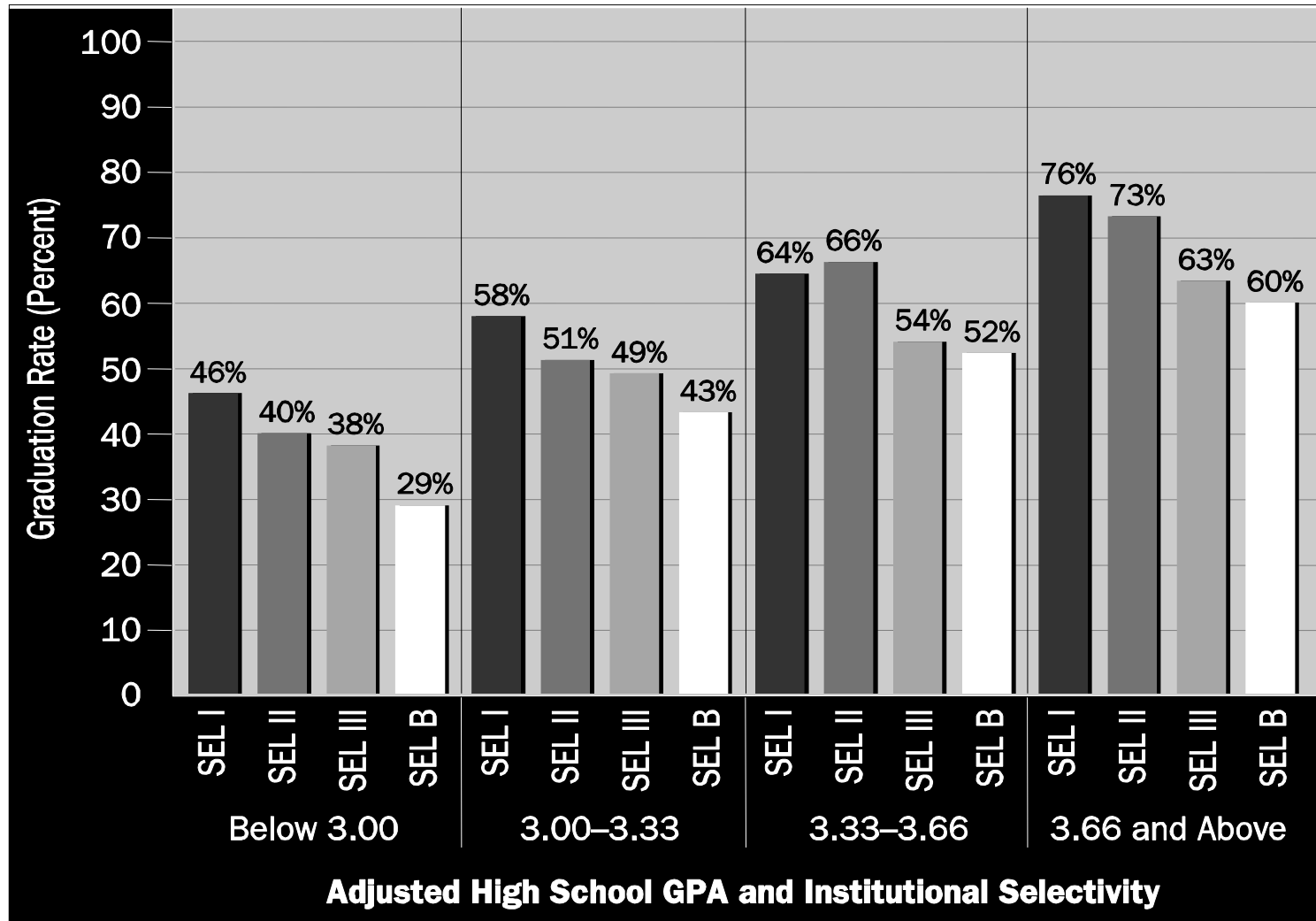
**Figure 10-3a. Adjusted 6-year Graduation Rates vs. Selectivity, Flagships and State-System SEL As**



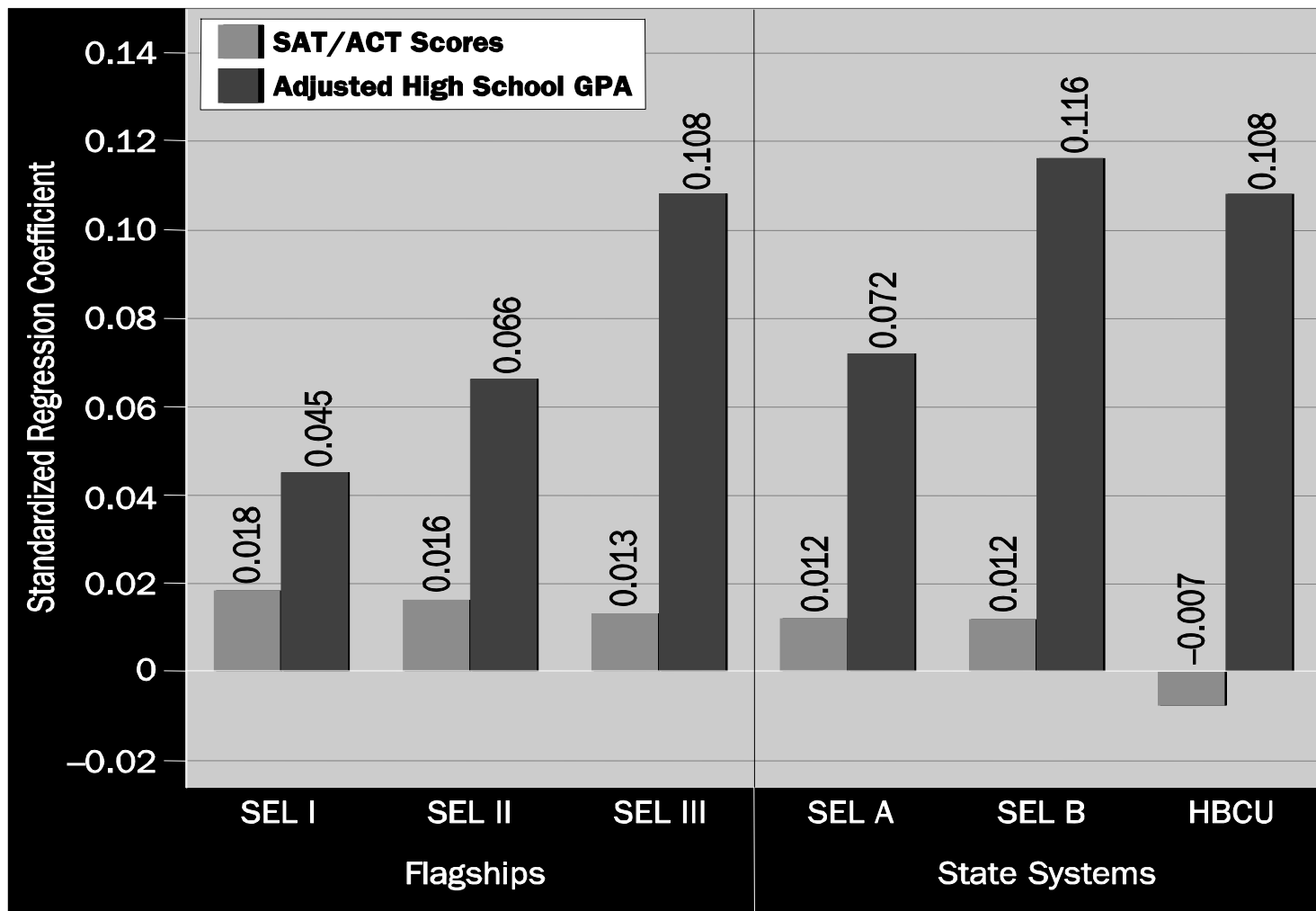
**Figure 10-3b. Adjusted 6-year Graduation Rates vs. Selectivity, State-System SEL Bs**



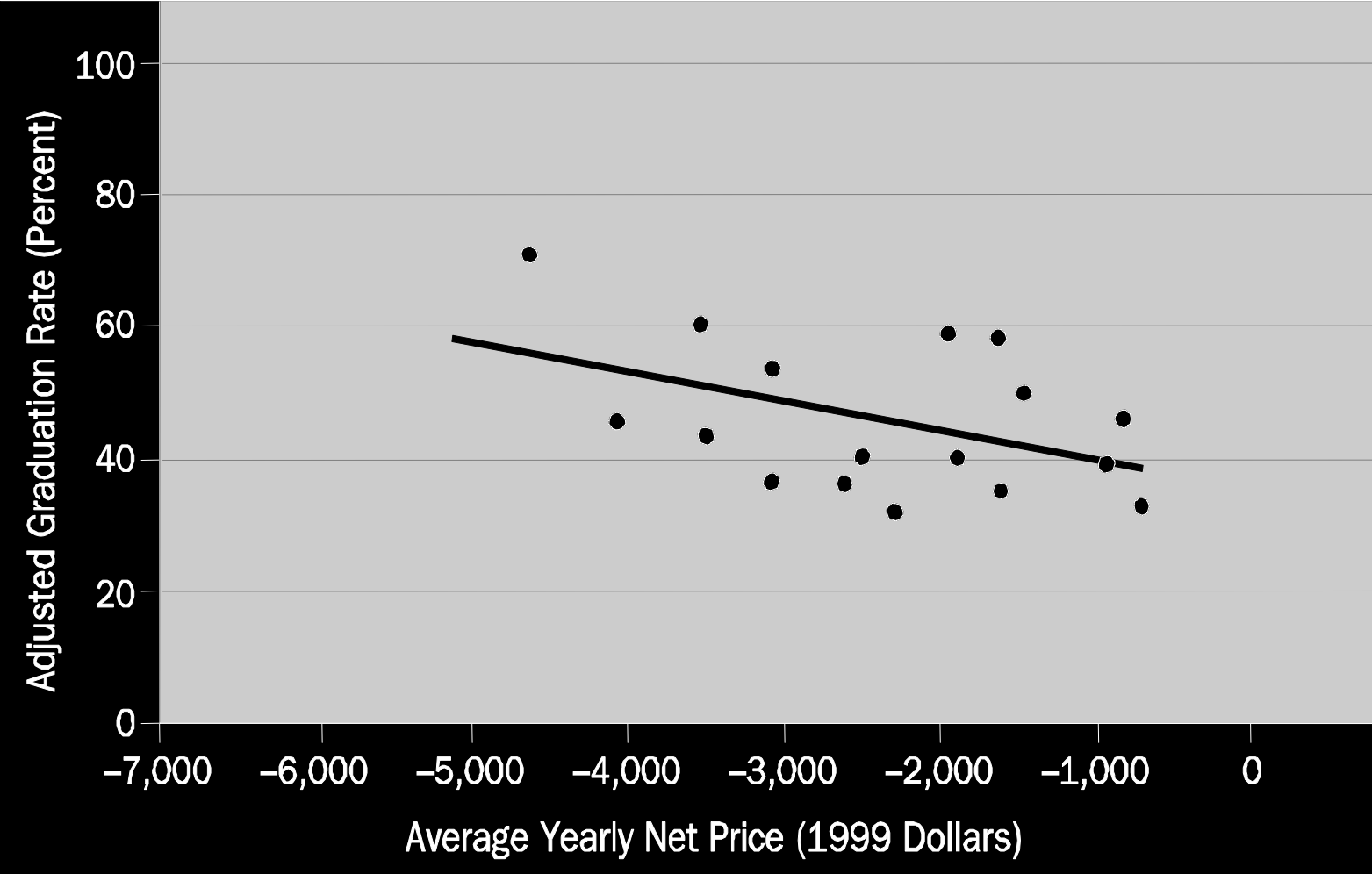
**Figure 11.1. Graduation Rates of Black Men by Adjusted High School GPA and Institutional Selectivity, 199 Entering Cohort**



**Figure 6-1. Predictive Power of SAT/ACT Scores and High School GPA on 6-year Graduation Rates, Standardized Regression Coefficients**

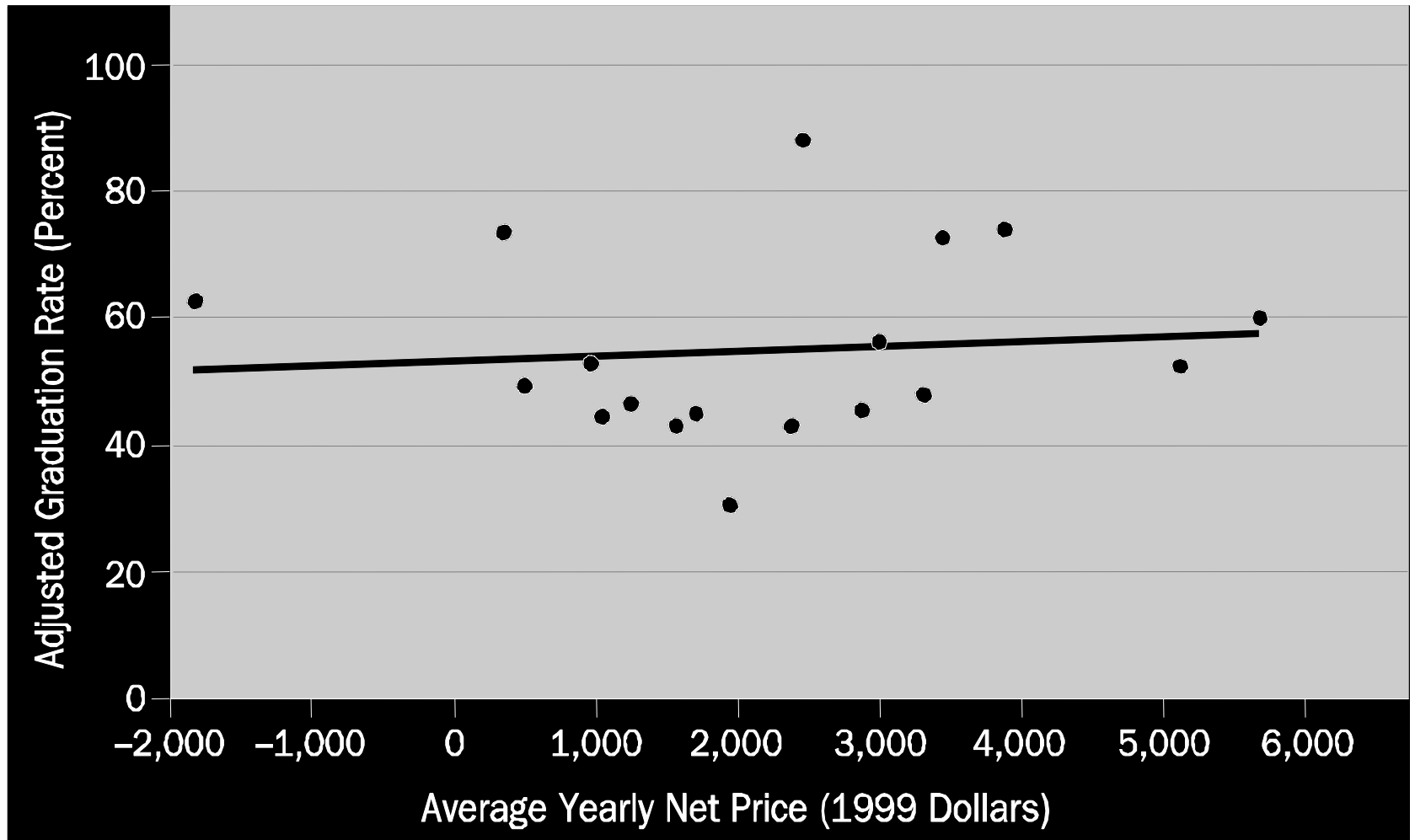


**Figure 9-11a. 4-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Bottom Income Quartile**

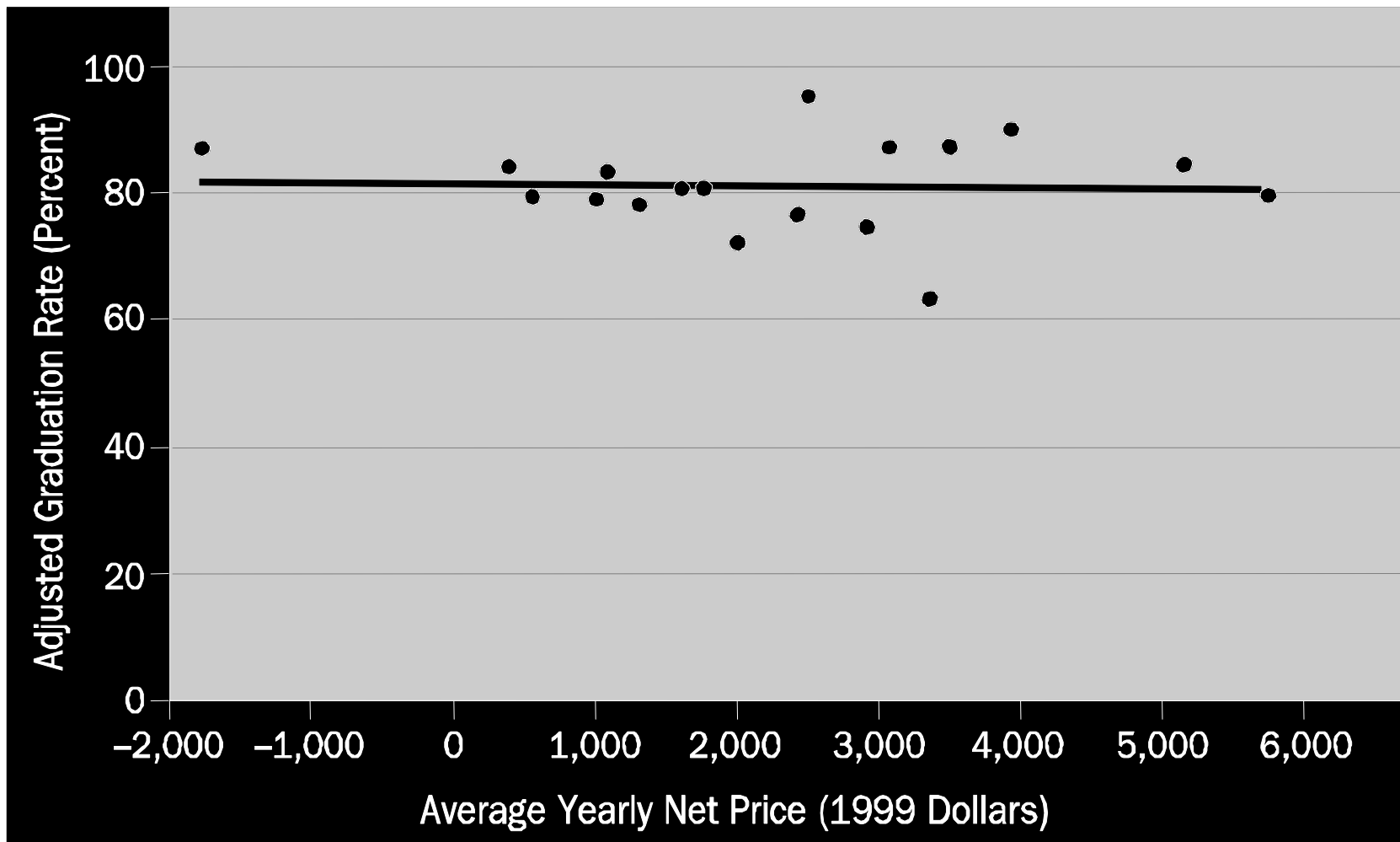




**Figure 9-14a. 4-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Top Income Quartile**



**Figure 9-14b. 6-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Top Income Quartile**



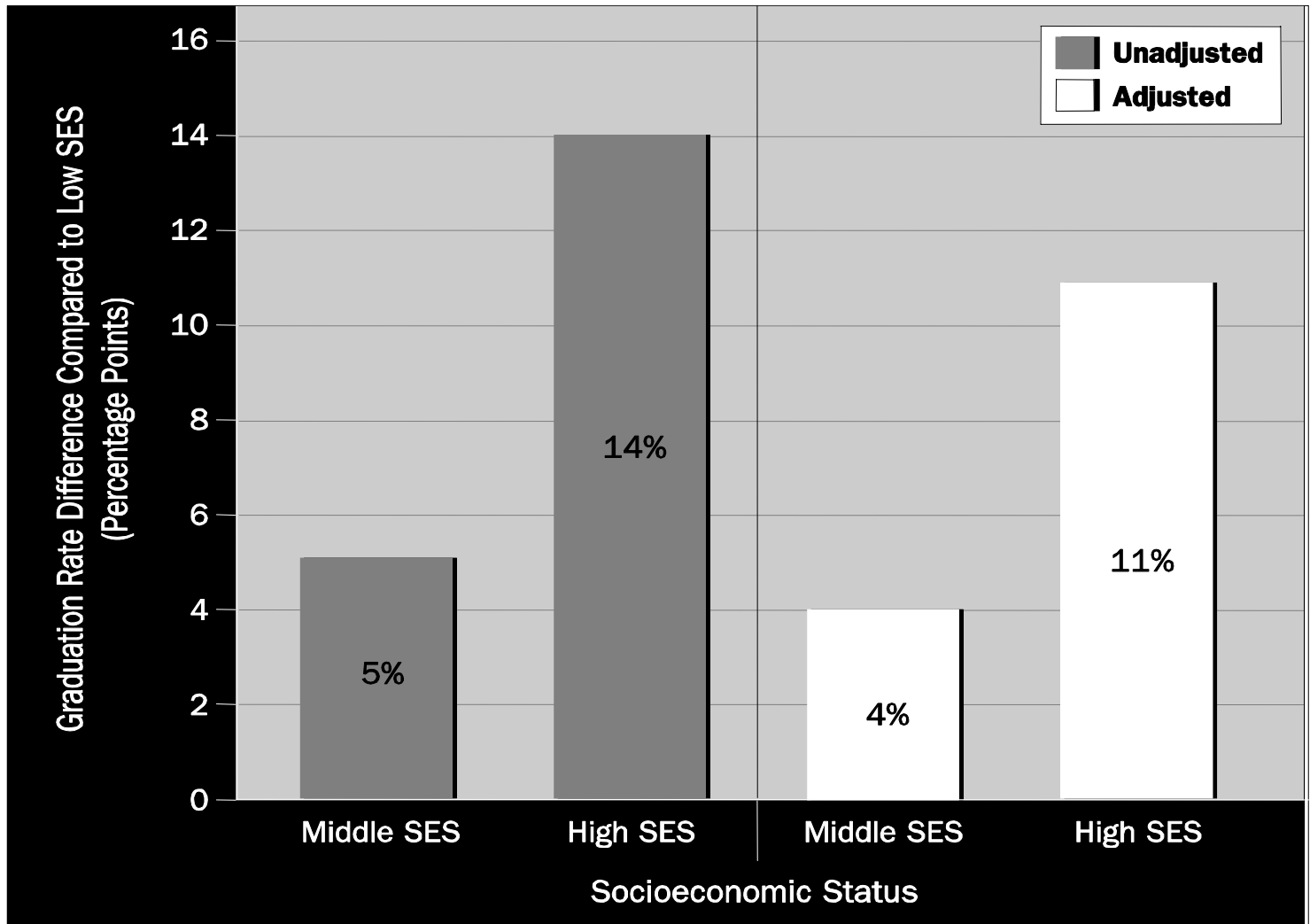
**Table 2-2. Bachelor's Degree Attainment Rates Over Time, by SES**

		<b>Class of 1972</b>	<b>Class of 1982</b>	<b>Class of 1992</b>
First Gen	Bottom Income Quartile	12.3%	11.1%	9.5%
	Second Income Quartile	20.2%	17.3%	17.4%
	Third Income Quartile	21.9%	21.3%	26.9%
	Top Income Quartile	27.9%	22.1%	32.1%
Non-First Gen	Bottom Income Quartile	31.7%	31.1%	28.9%
	Second Income Quartile	38.5%	43.8%	38.9%
	Third Income Quartile	44.2%	55.6%	46.0%
	Top Income Quartile	59.6%	60.9%	67.7%
<b>Overall Average</b>		<b>25.8%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>

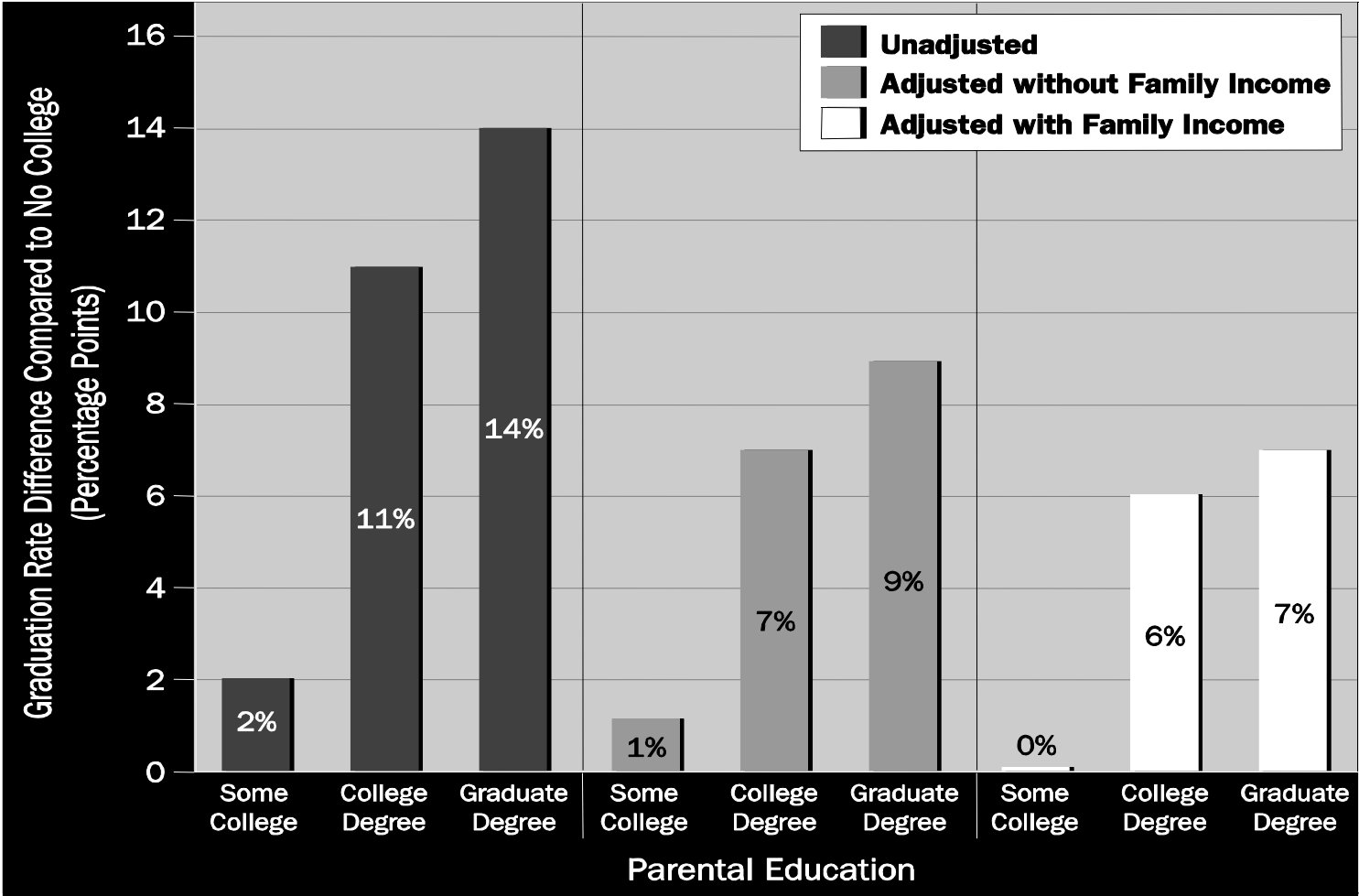
Notes: "Attainment Rate" is defined as the percent of the subgroup that completed a bachelor's degree by Age 26. First generation students are those for whom neither parent has a bachelor's degree. Income quartiles are based on discrete survey responses. Percent in each income quartile (from bottom to top):1972: 26%, 22%, 26%, 25%; 1982: 23%, 28%, 31%, 19%; 1992: 24%, 24%, 20%, 32%.

Sources: National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 (NLS), High School and Beyond Study of 1980 Sophomores (HS&B), and the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS)

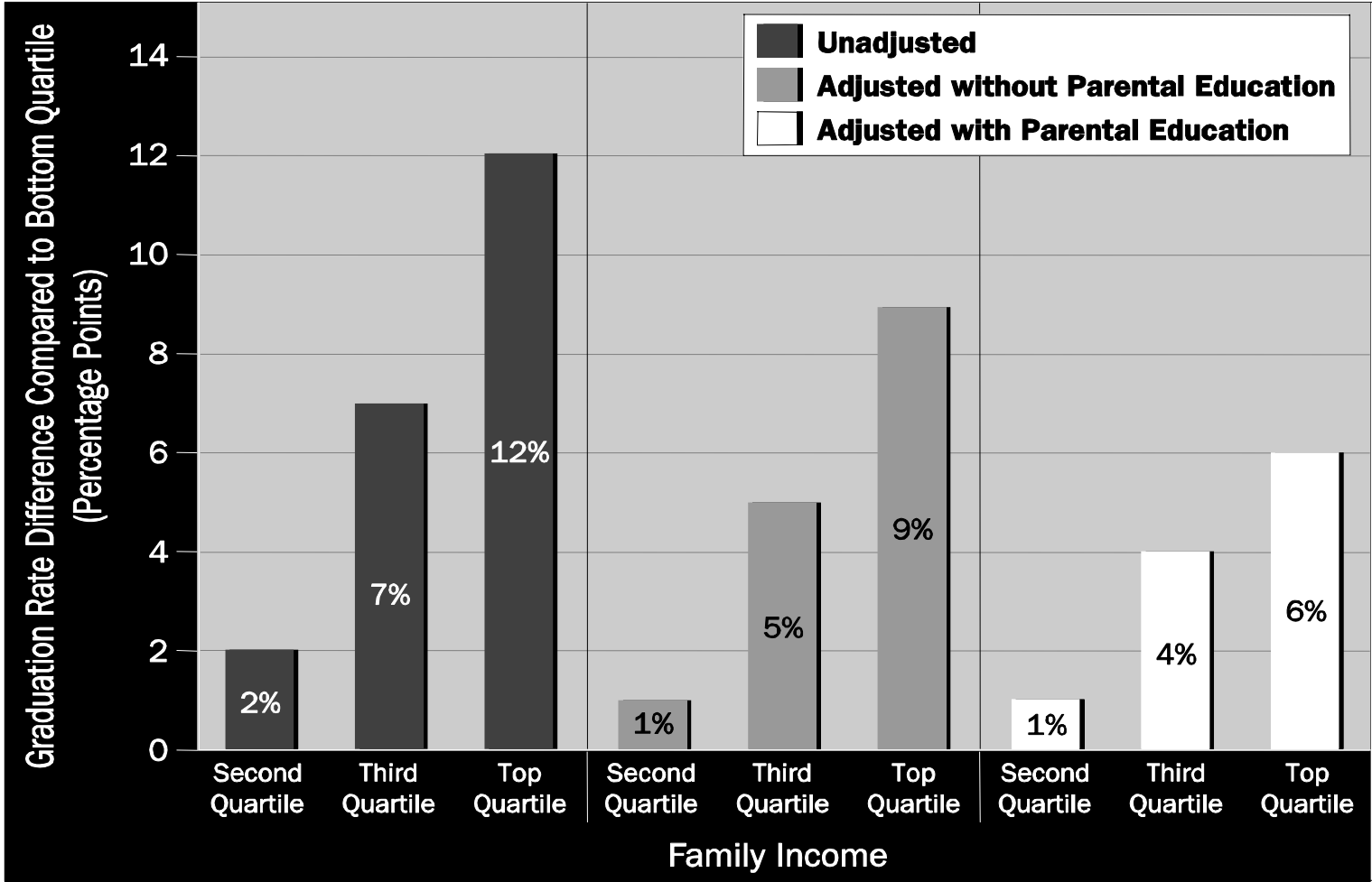
**Figure 3-7. Differences by Socioeconomic Status in 6-year Graduation Rates (Compared to Low SES) at Flagships, Unadjusted and Adjusted**



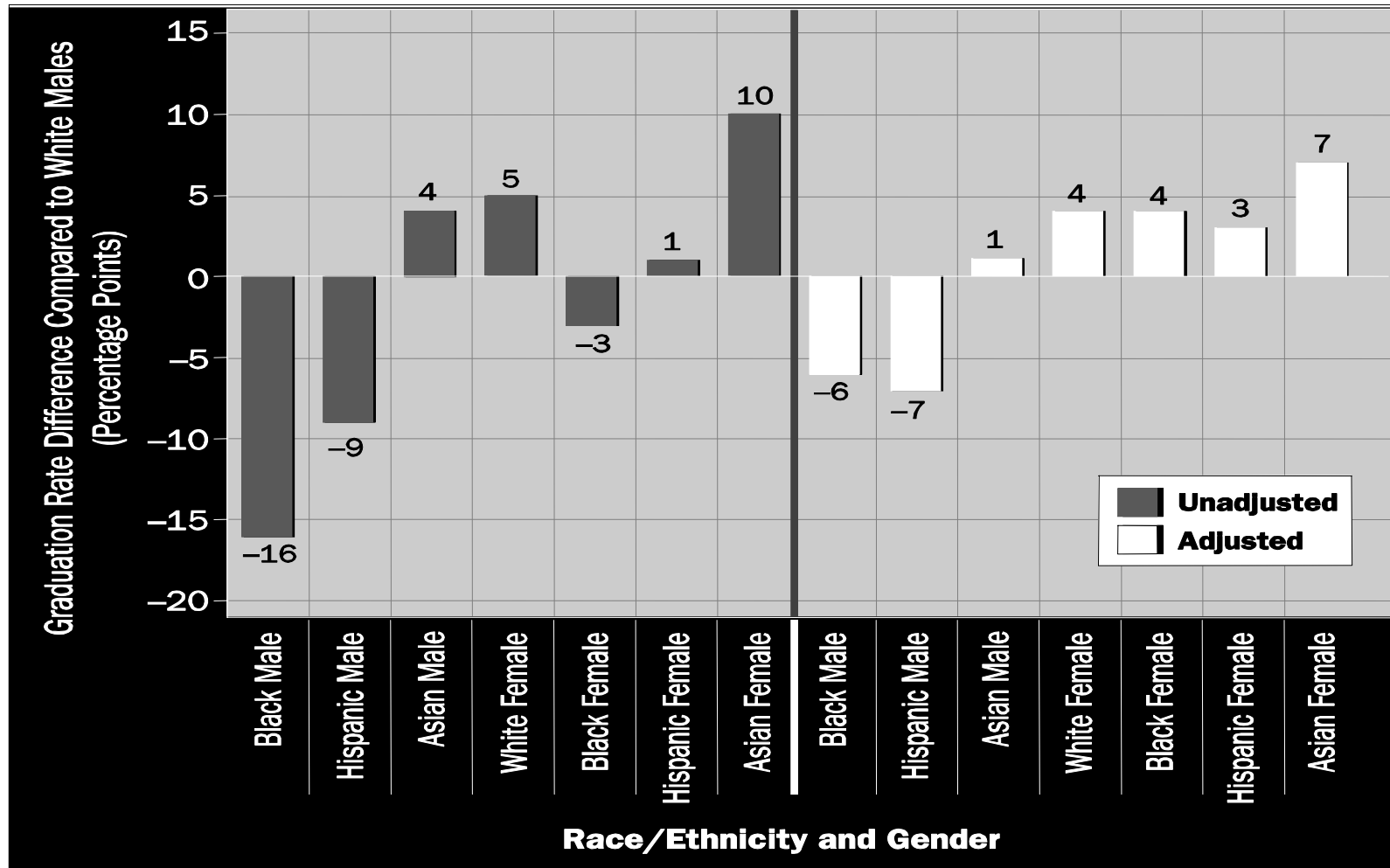
**Figure 3-8. Differences by Parental Education in 6-year Graduation Rates (Compared to No College) at Flagships, Unadjusted and Adjusted**



**Figure 3-9. Differences by Family Income in 6-year Graduation Rates (Compared to Bottom Quartile) at Flagships, Unadjusted and Adjusted**



**Figure 3-13a. Differences by Race and Gender in 6-year Graduation Rates (Compared to White Males) at Flagships, Unadjusted and Adjusted**



**Figure 5-4. Grid for Estimating "Presumptive Eligibility"  
to Attend a SEL A University**

		<b>SAT Scores</b>							
		Below 800	800–890	900–990	1000–1090	1100–1190	1200–1290	1300–1390	1400 and Above
<b>High School GPA</b>	2.0 and Below	NO 16.7		NO 11.1	NO 0.0	NO 0.0			
	2.3	NO 0.0	NO 0.0	NO 5.4	NO 12.1	NO 10.5			
	2.7	NO 6.1	NO 5.2	NO 10.8	NO 18.8	NO 33.3	NO 31.6		
	3	NO 7.1	NO 10.1	NO 15.4	NO 28.9	NO 41.2	NO 49.2	NO 68.2	
	3.3	NO 2.6	NO 20.7	NO 22.1	NO 41.9	NO 63.3	NO 73.2	YES 92.7	
	3.7	NO 14.8	NO 17.5	NO 35.1	NO 62.9	NO 86.3	YES 93.8	YES 94.4	YES 96.8
	4	NO 21.7	NO 45.9	NO 62.5	NO 85.9	YES 96.2	YES 98.1	YES 98.8	YES 100.0
	4.3			NO 83.6	YES 93.1	YES 98.7	YES 99.6	YES 100.0	YES 100.0

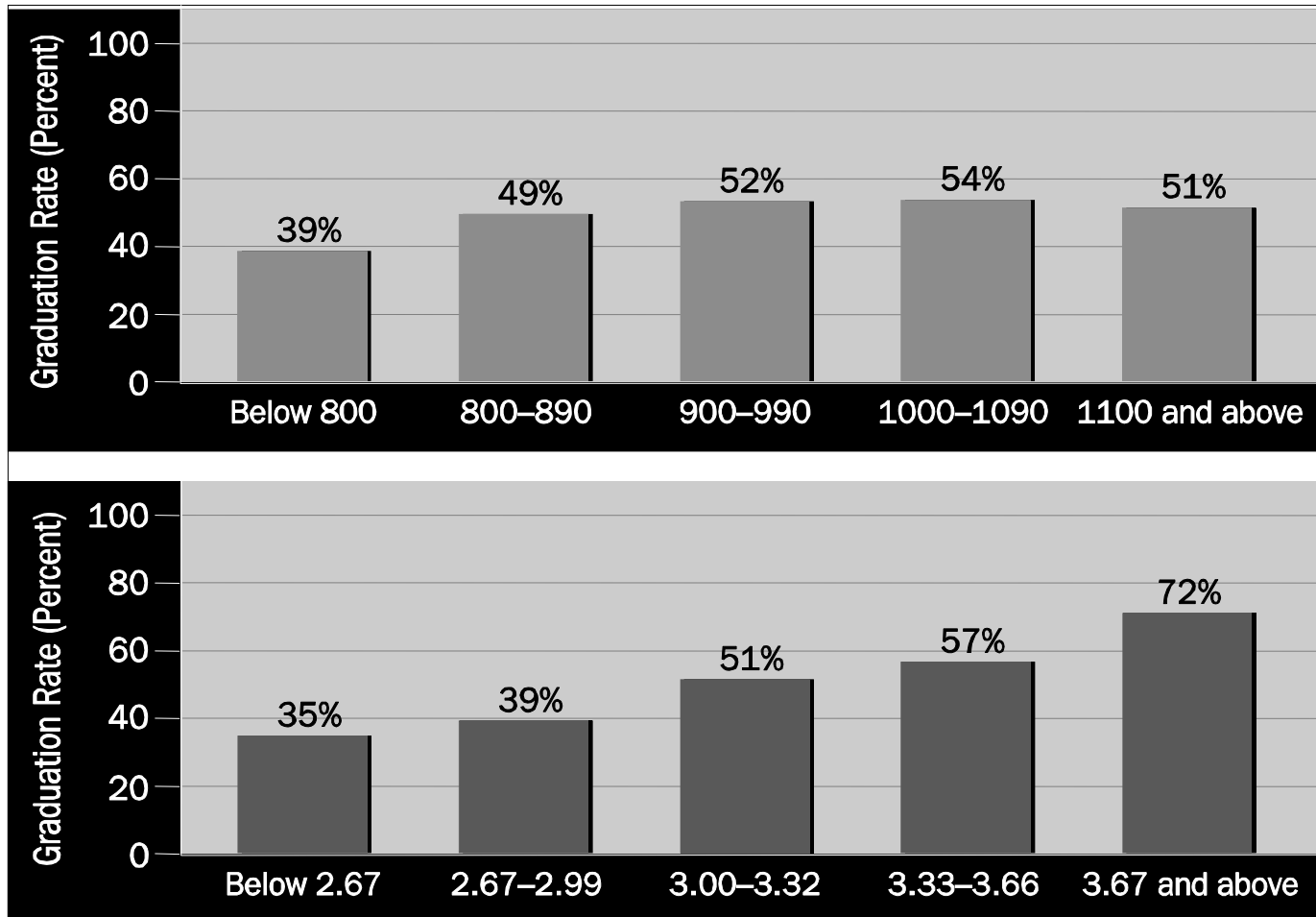


**Figure 6-3.**

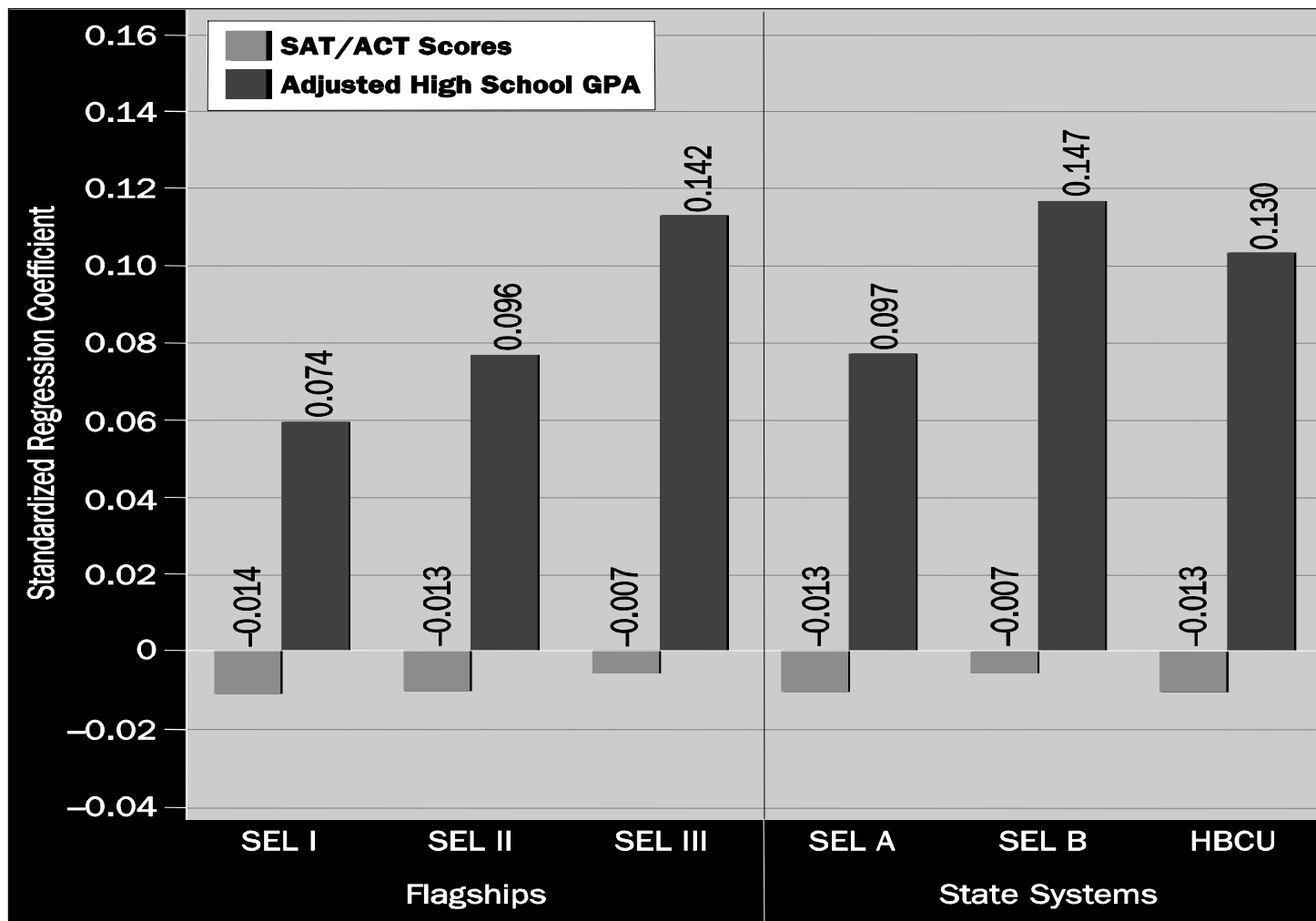
**6-year Graduation Rates by SAT/ACT Scores, Holding HS GPA Constant at 3.00-3.33,  
at State-System SEL Bs**

**and**

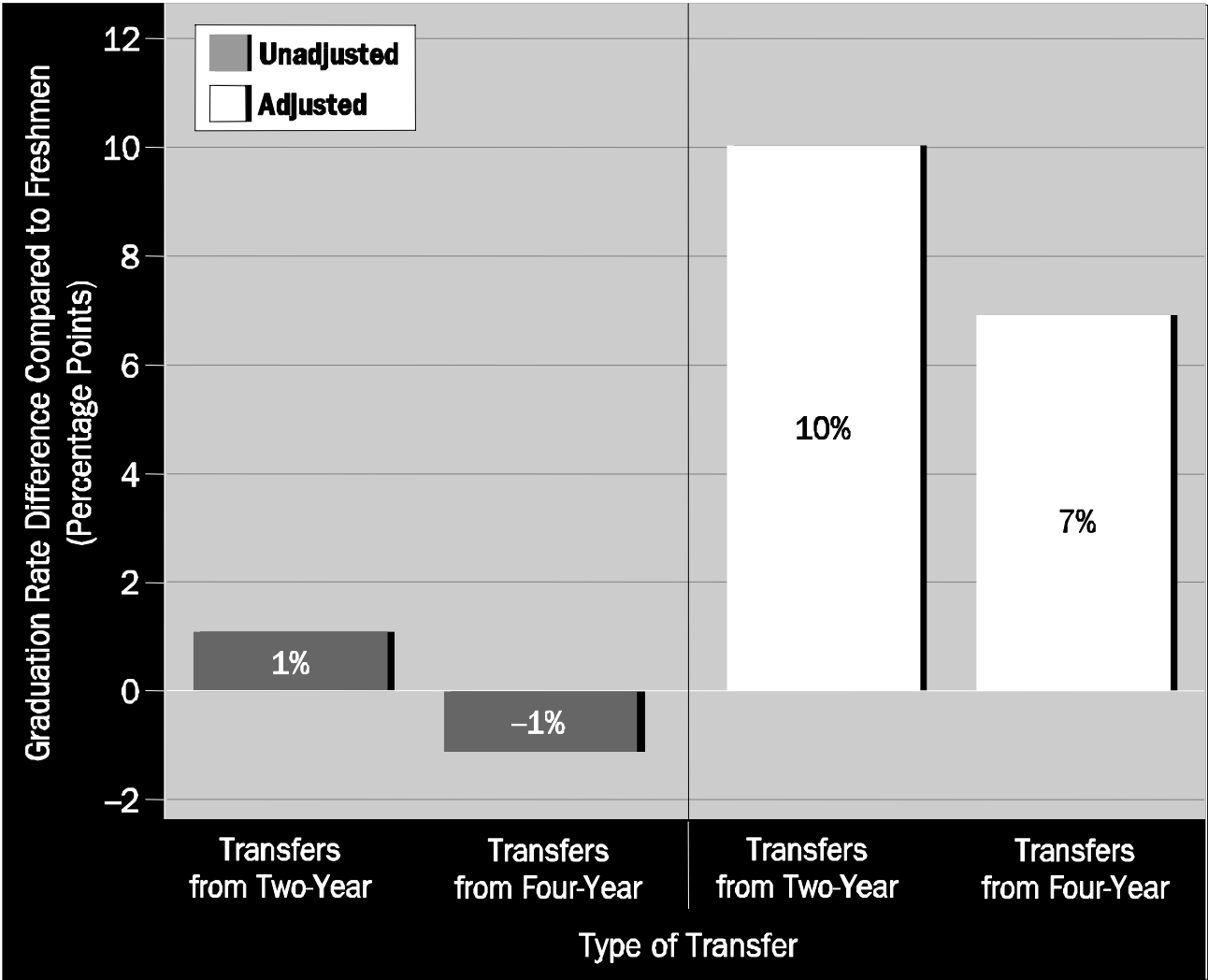
**6-year Graduation Rates by HS GPA, Holding SAT/ACT Scores Constant at 1100 and above,  
at State-System SEL Bs**



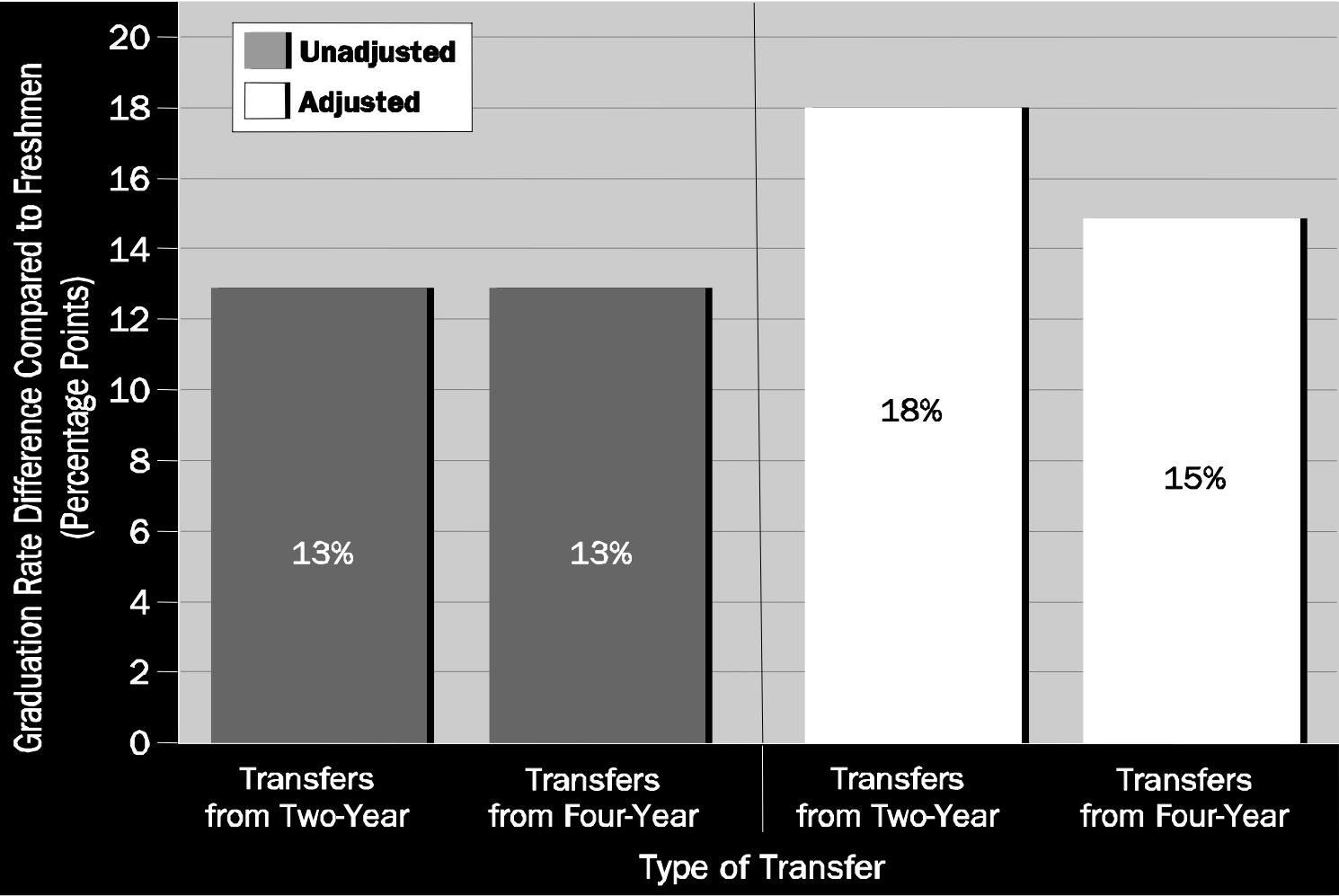
**Figure 6-5. Predictive Power of SAT/ACT Scores and High School GPA on 6-year Graduation Rates with High School Dummies Included, Standardized Regression Coefficients**



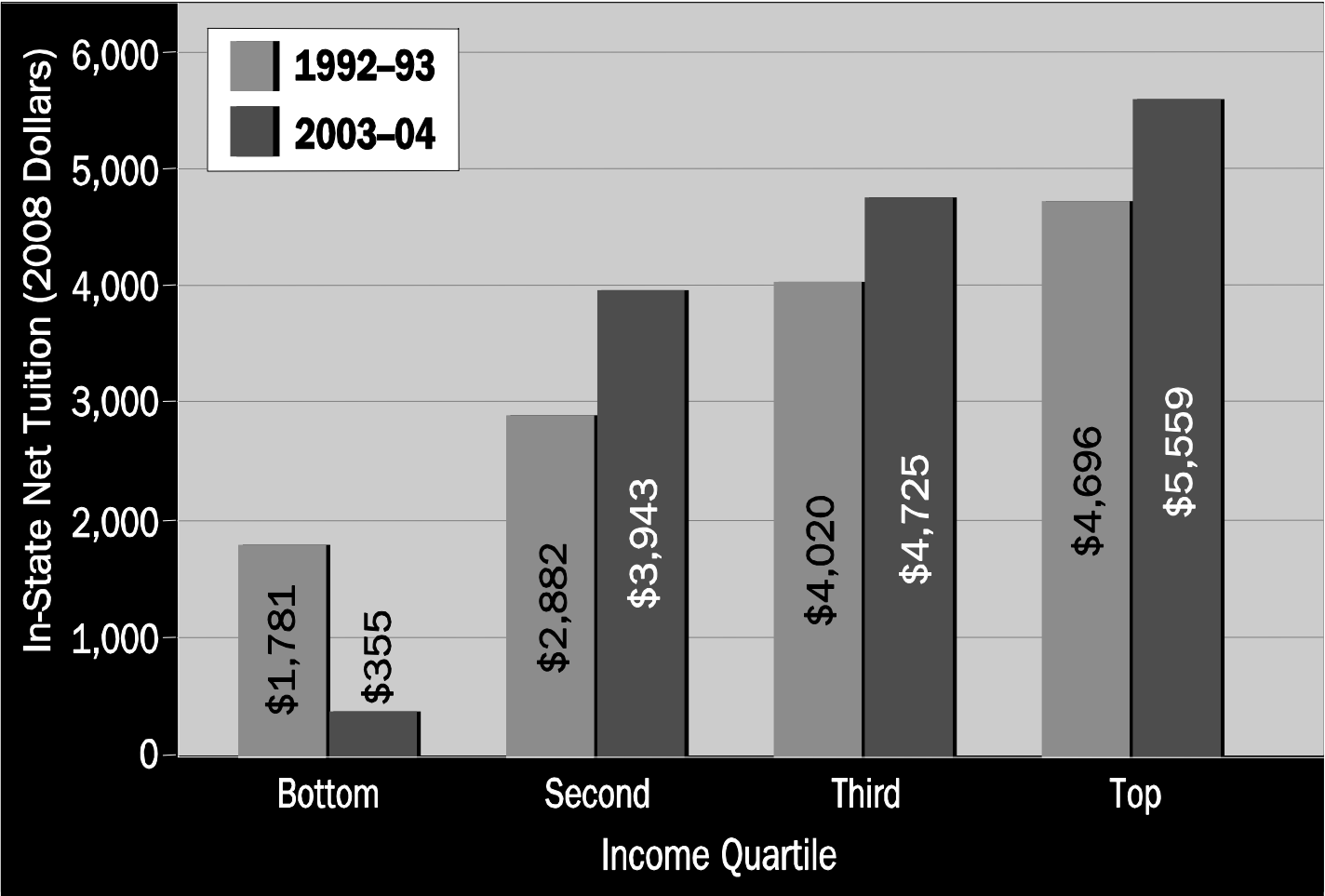
**Figure 7-6a. Differences Between Transfers and Freshman in 6-year Graduation Rates at Flagships and State-System SEL As, Unadjusted and Adjusted**



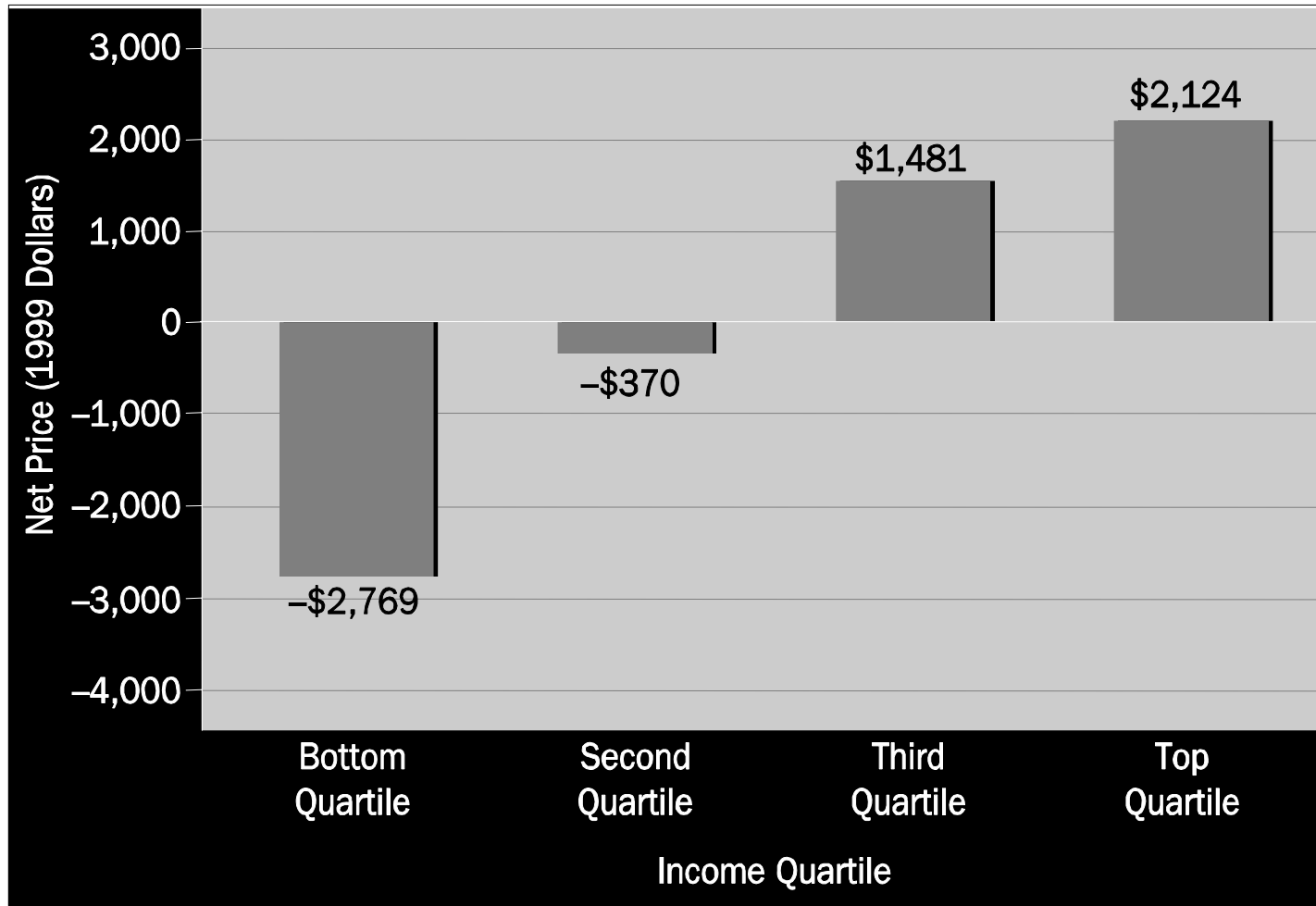
**Figure 7-6b. Differences Between Transfers and Freshmen in 6-year Graduation Rates at State-System SEL Bs, Unadjusted and Adjusted**



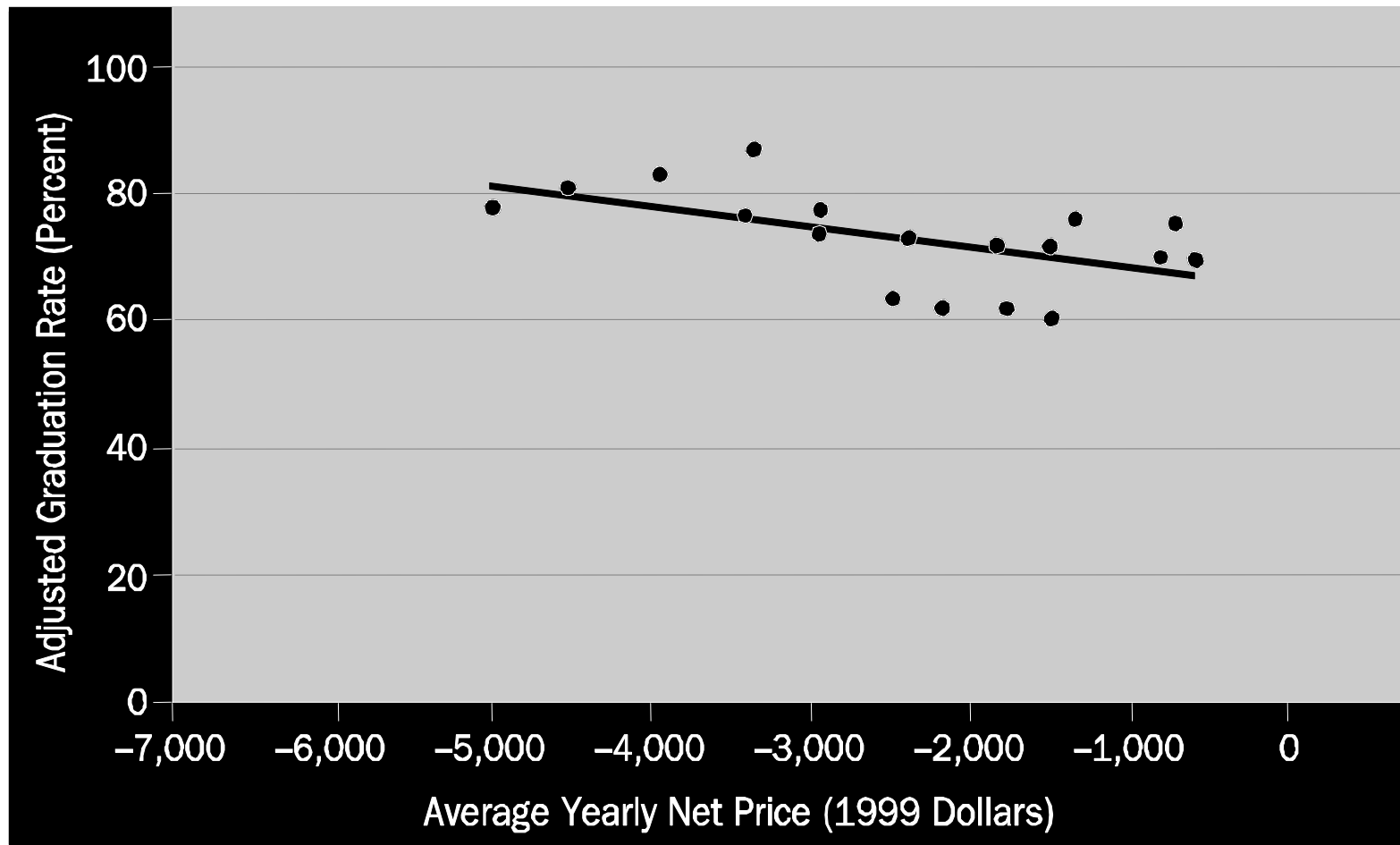
**Figure 8-5a. In-state Net Tuition and Fees at 4-year Public Colleges, 1992-1993 and 2003-2004**



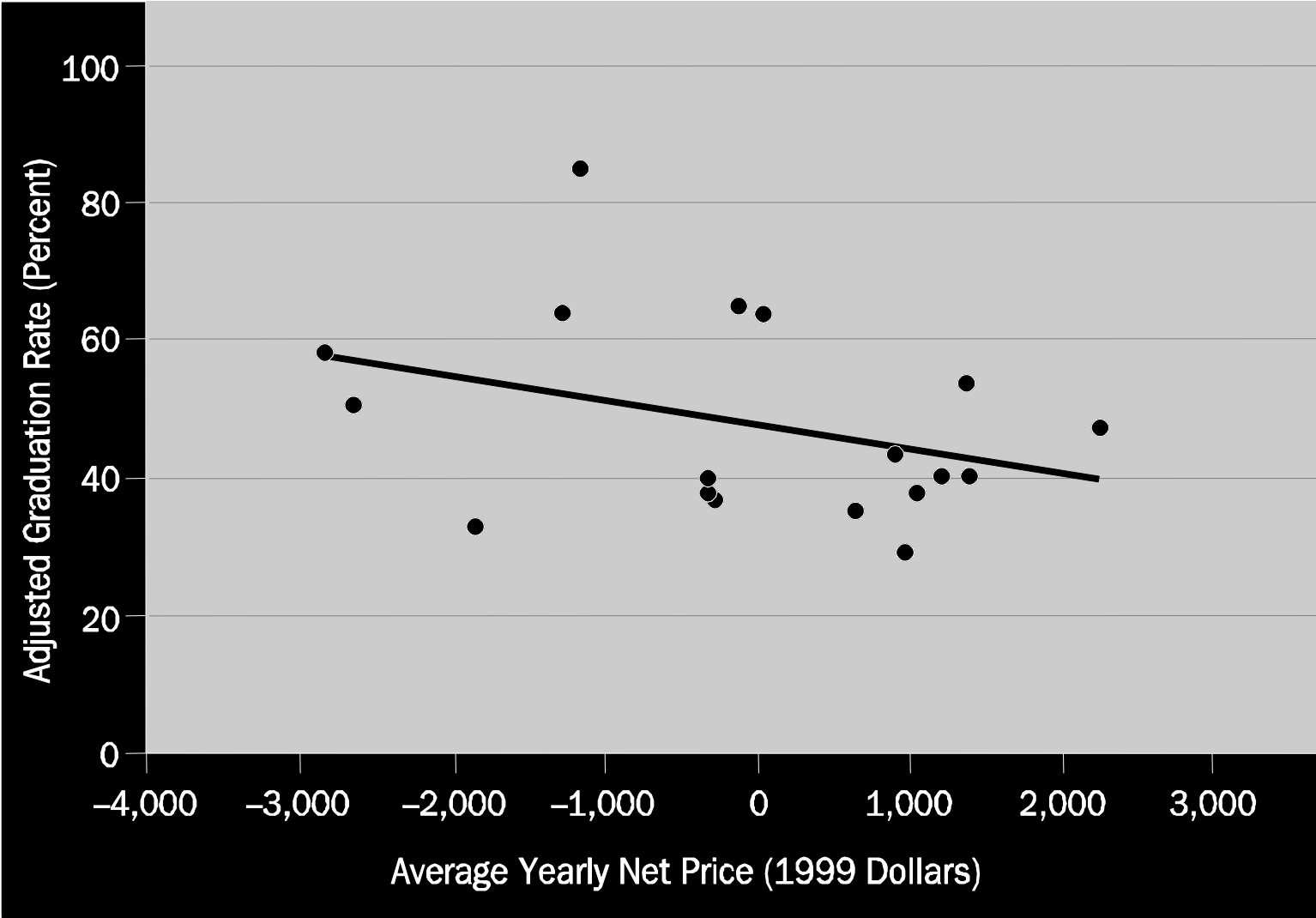
**Figure 9-2. Average Net Price at Flagships and State-System SEL As, among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen**



**Figure 9-11b. 6-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Bottom Income Quartile**

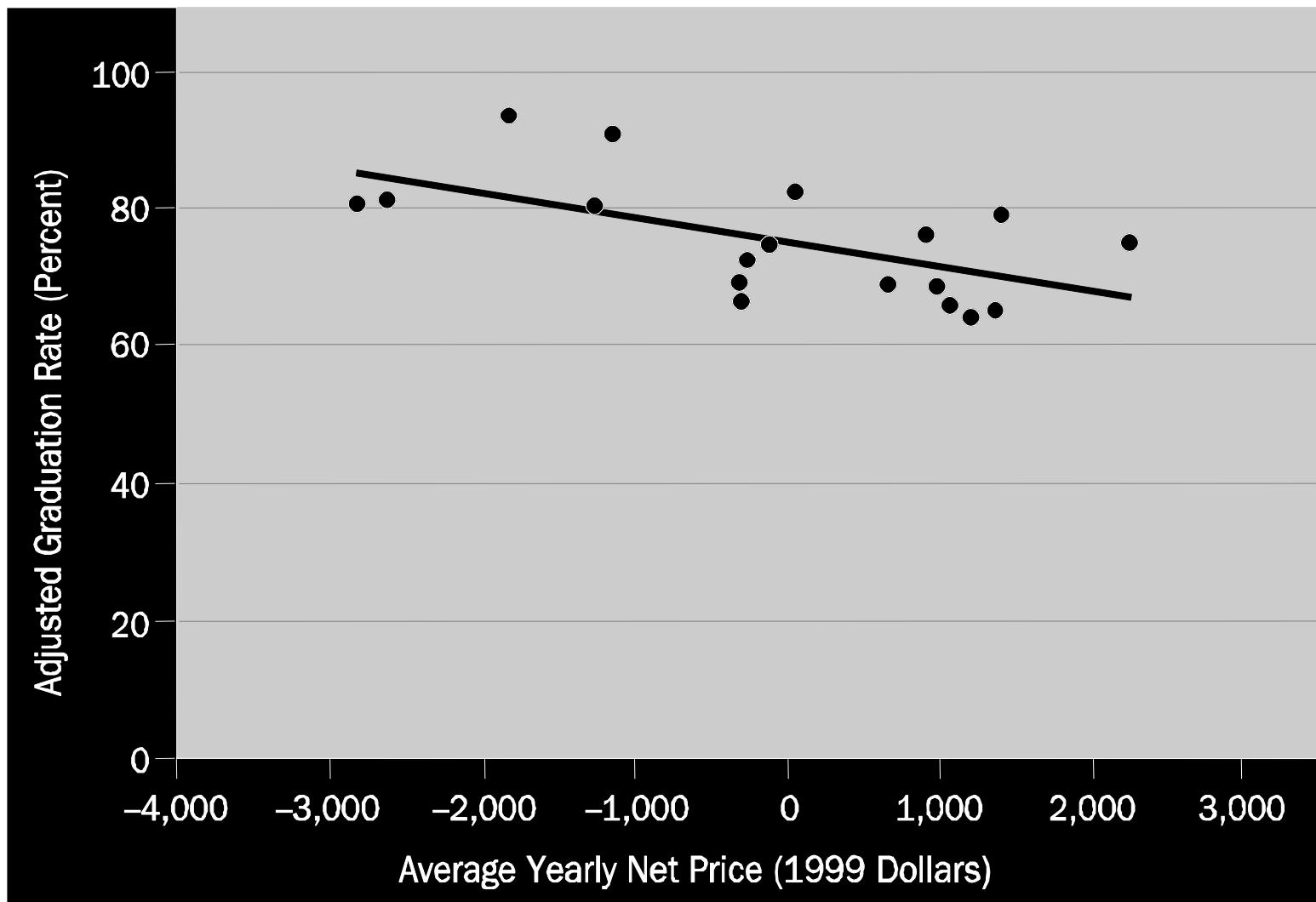


**Figure 9-12a. 4-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Second Income Quartile**

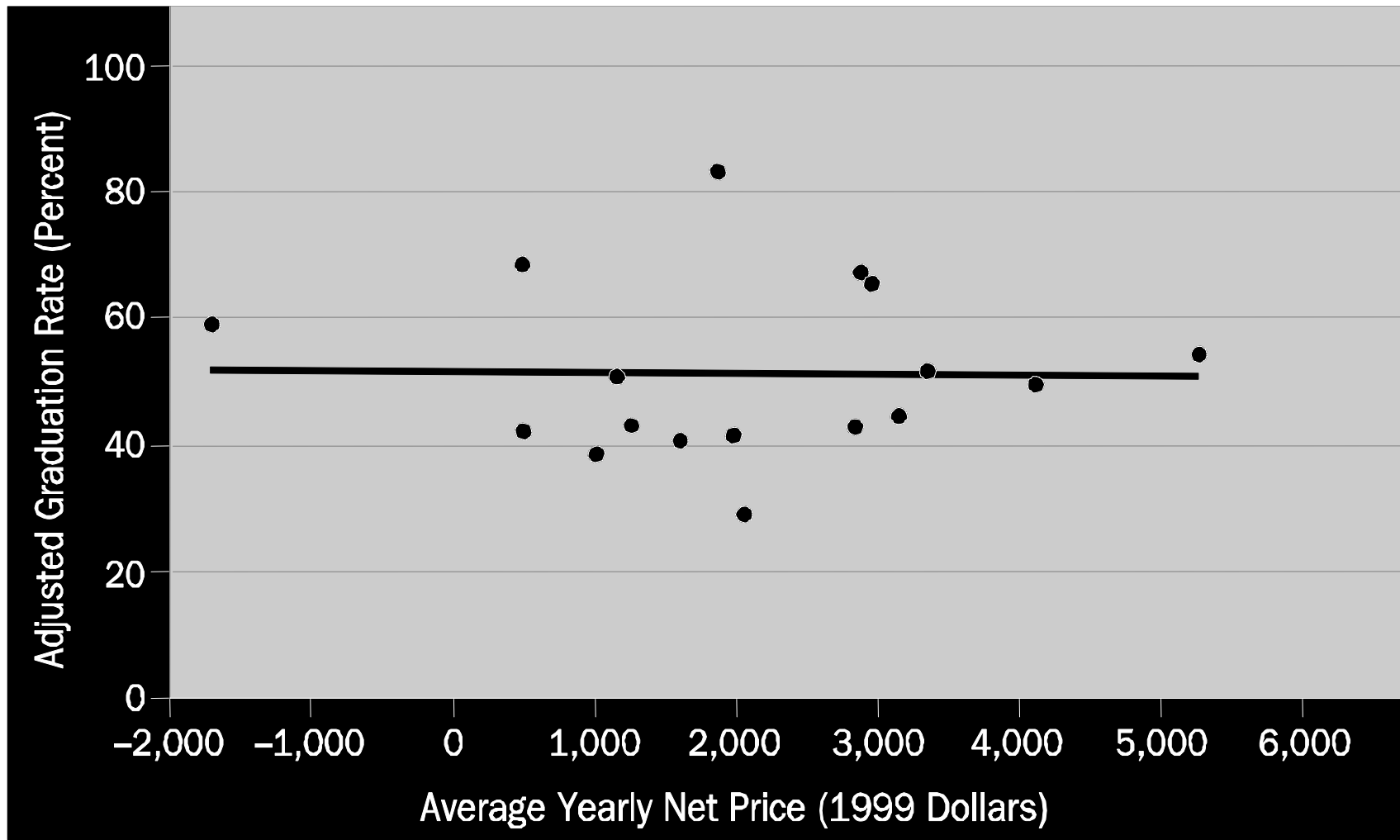




**Figure 9-12b. 6-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Second Income Quartile**



**Figure 9-13a. 4-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Third Income Quartile**



**Figure 9-13b. 6-year Graduation Rate by Net Price among Full-time, Dependent, In-state Freshmen in the Third Income Quartile**

