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The Impact of Living On Campus on Student Persistence

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The Impact of Living On Campus on Student Persistence

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Utah State University
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INTRODUCTION

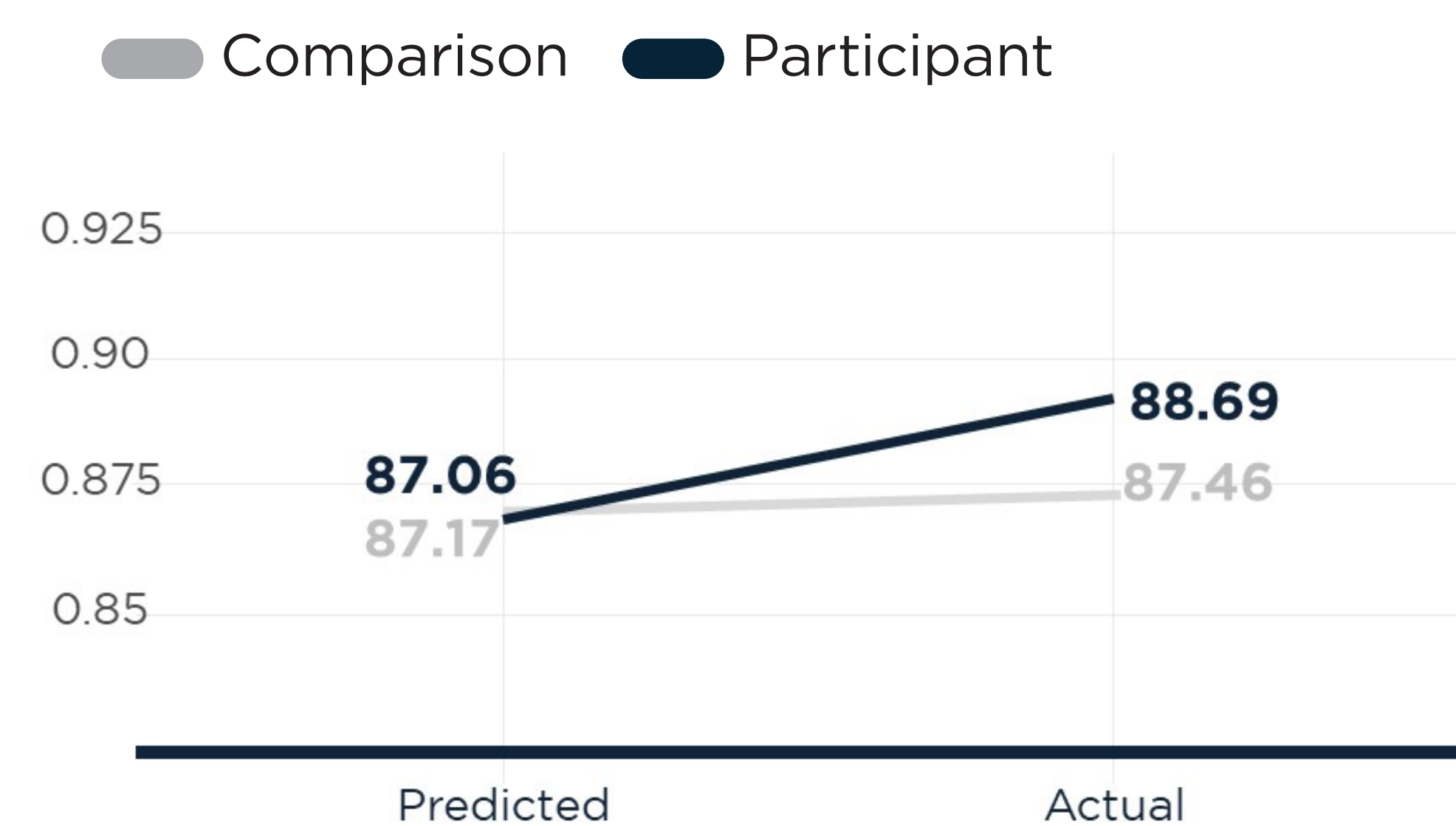
Research suggests that students living on campus while studying are more likely to remain enrolled at an institution because of their increased access to campus resources. Most of this research, however, lacks control for self-selection bias. The present study investigates the effects of living on campus at a university in the Intermountain Region on students' likelihood to remain enrolled while controlling for self-selection bias.

METHODS

Using variables related to students' background and a matching technique called Prediction-based Propensity Score Matching (PPSM), researchers paired students living on campus to similar students not living on campus and compared the average difference in retention between pairs. This comparison allowed researchers to control for self-selection bias while quantifying the impact of living on campus on student sub-groups.

1 Student Impact

Students living on campus experienced an estimated 1.35% (CI: 0.32% to 2.38%) lift in persistence to the next semester. In other words, 162 students (CI: 38 to 285) who were otherwise expected to leave the institution remained enrolled because they lived on campus.



2 Sub-groups

Analysis of sub-groups revealed that:

- Figure 1** Female students experienced an estimated 1.83% lift in persistence to the next semester.
- Figure 2** Students from the bottom, second, and top persistence quartiles did not experience a significant increase in retention, while students from the third persistence quartile experienced an estimated 1.90% lift.
- Figure 3** Students living on campus with 1-3 semesters completed experienced an estimated 1.59% lift in persistence.
- Figure 4** Full-time students experienced an estimated 1.26% lift in persistence.

RESULTS

Figure 1

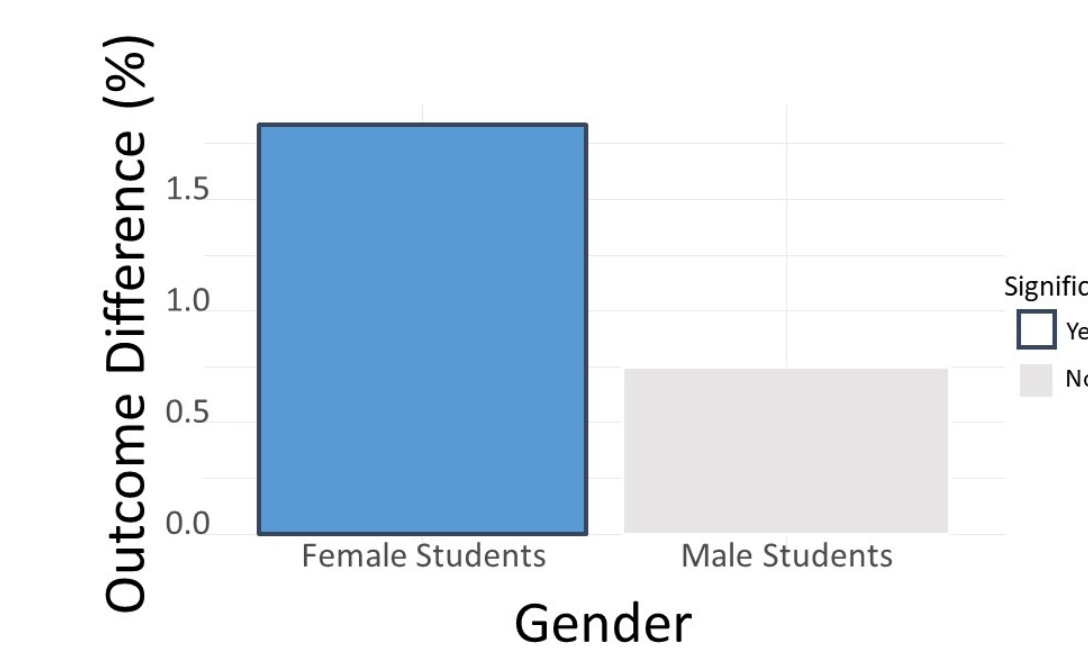


Figure 2

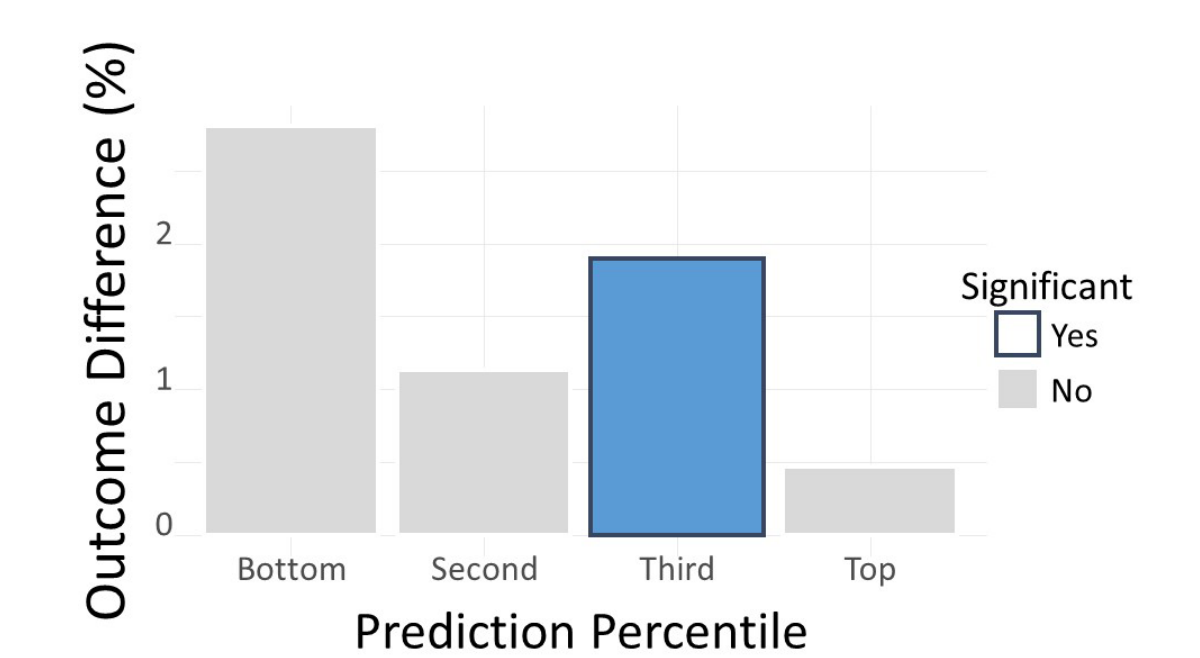


Figure 3

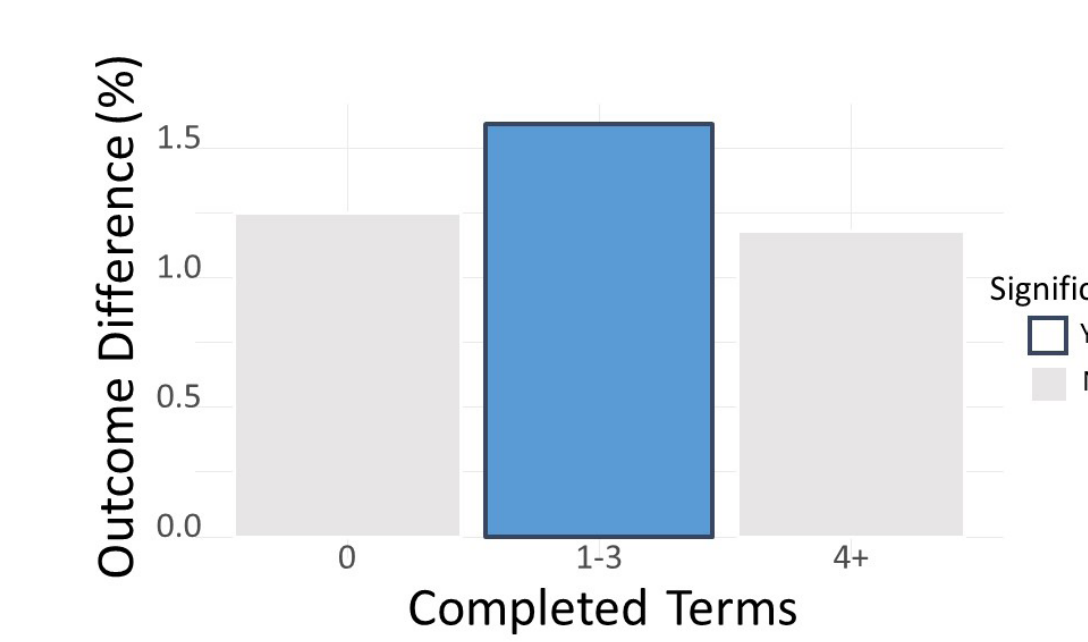
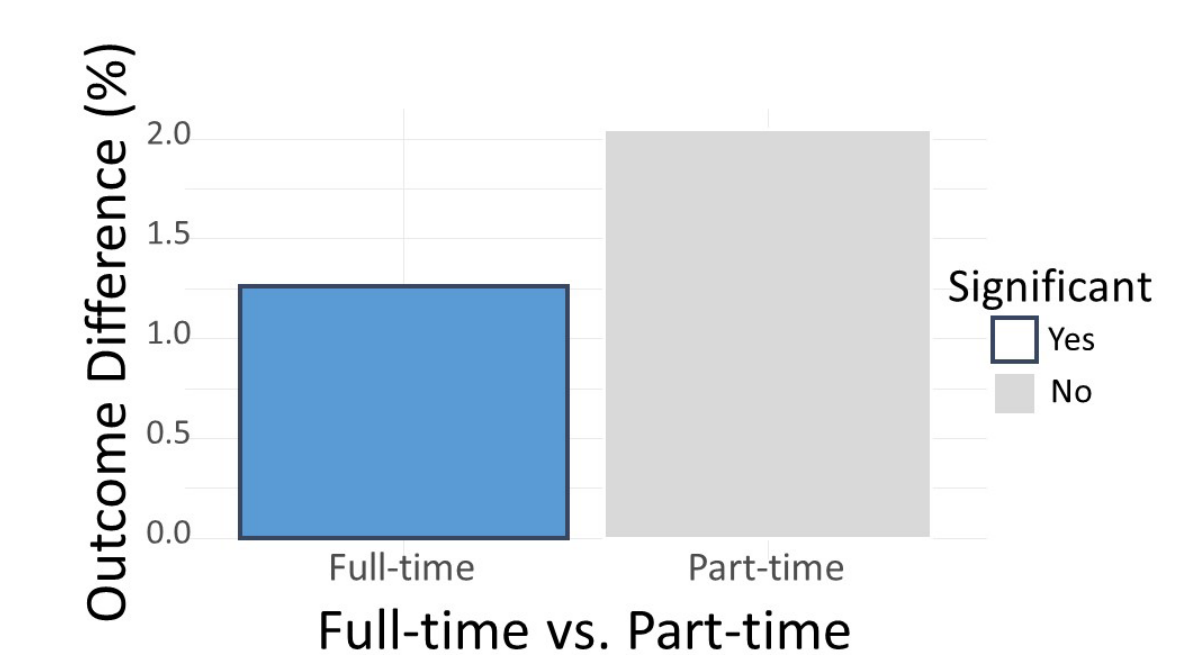


Figure 4

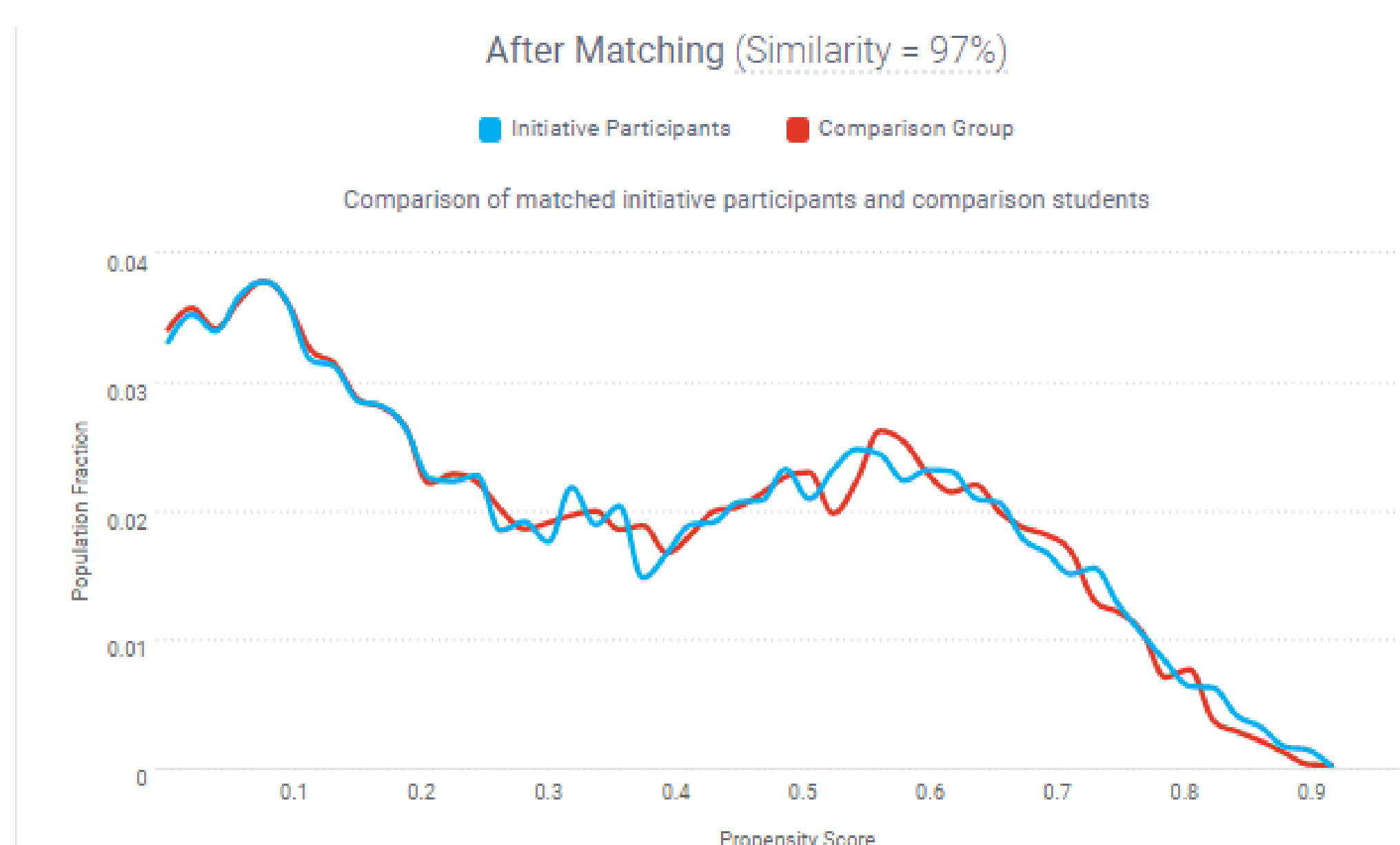
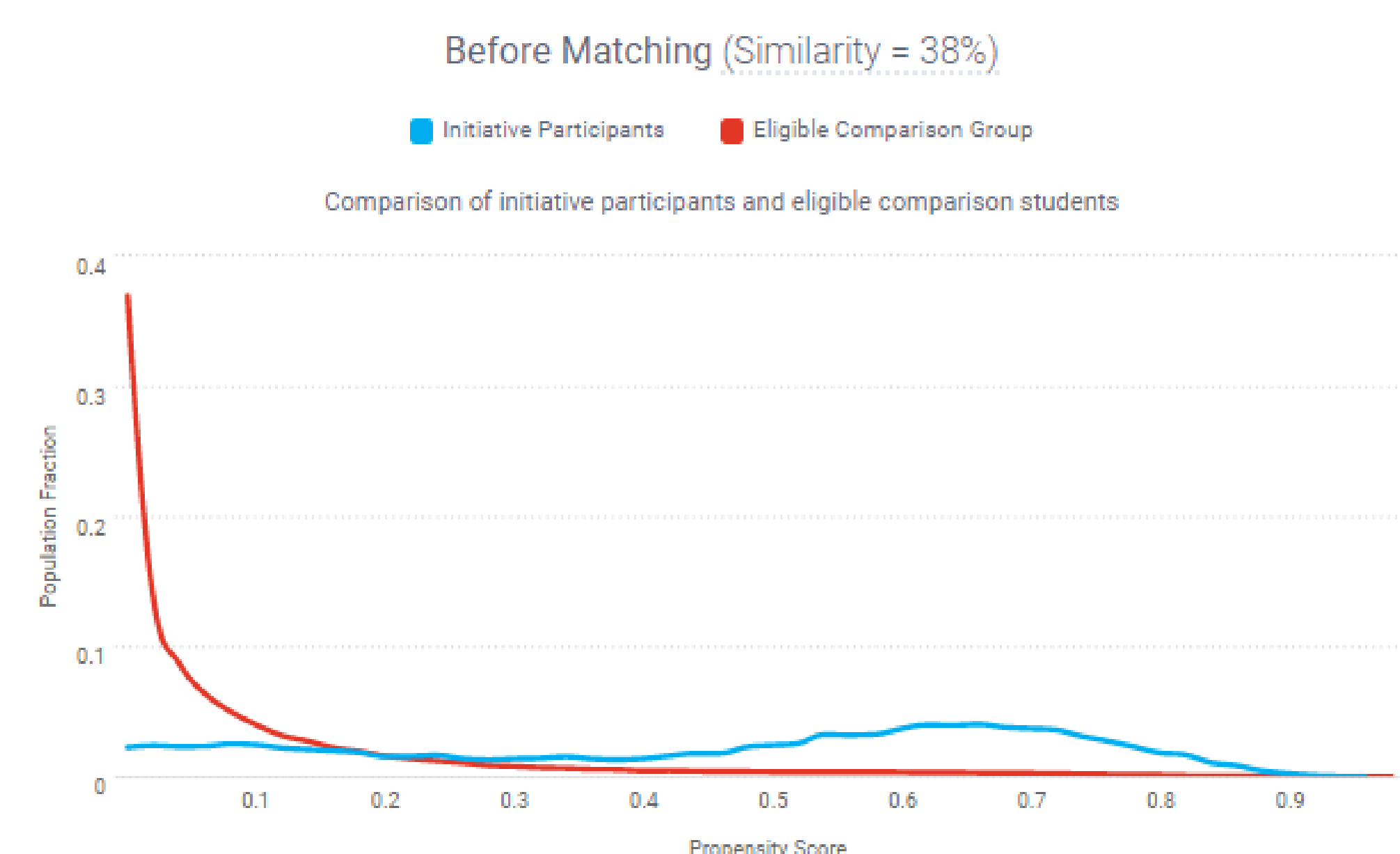


CONCLUSION

The findings of this study continue to support the conclusion that students living on campus are more likely to experience a significant increase in their likelihood to persist.

MATCHING

Before controlling for self-selection bias, 21,941 students were available for analysis. Students living on campus were approximately 38% similar to the comparison group. After matching, 12,002 students were matched for analysis, with students living on campus being 97% similar to the comparison group. By controlling for variables that might contribute to a student's decision to persist, researchers obtained a more accurate estimate of the impact of housing on student persistence.



DISCUSSION

As hypothesized, living on campus is associated with increased student retention. Even after controlling for self-selection bias, a significant increase in retention (1.35%) was experienced by students living in university housing. This approximation leads researchers to conclude that students should continue to make efforts to live on campus at the university.