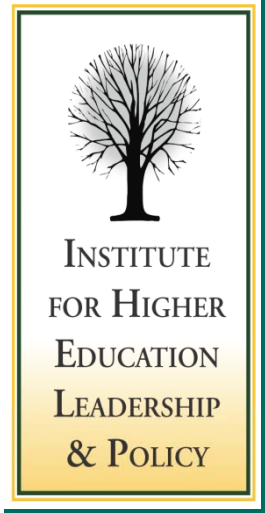

The Grades are In – 2008: Is California Higher Education Measuring Up?

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Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy

Campaign for College Opportunity
Capitol Briefing
February 26, 2009

California State University, Sacramento

Key Points

- California has a serious and urgent education/workforce problem
- Policy and planning are not meeting the challenge
- Budget is no excuse: low cost/ high impact actions are available

The Grades are In - 2008

- Analysis of performance of CA higher education
- Expands on national report card – *Measuring Up*
- Focus on variations across regions and racial/ethnic groups
- 3rd report of the series – includes trends
- Key issues and recommendations

Context: Many Similar Warnings

- Campaign for College Opportunity: Access to college threatened by lack of planning
- National Center: CA projected drop in per capita income most severe in US
- PPIC: shortage of college-educated workers
- EDGE Campaign: risk losing competitive advantage
- National Center: “egalitarian provisions of the Master Plan commitment – access and transfer – are in serious disrepair”

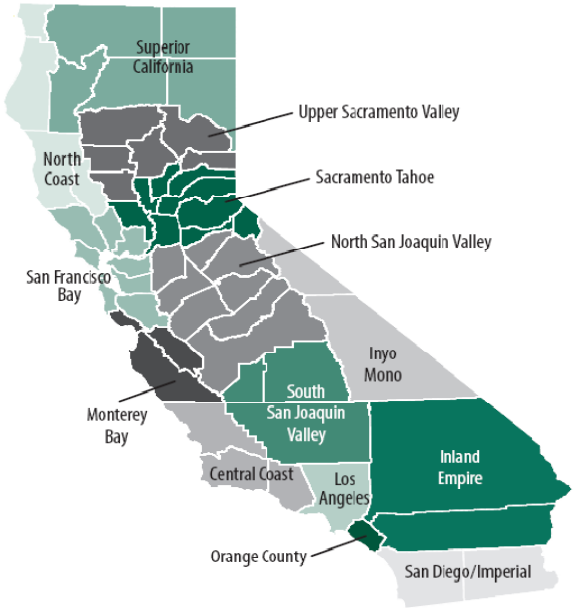
The Grades are In:
California lags many other states in important aspects of higher education performance

- 45th in share of HS students taking advanced math/science
- 40th in rate of HS grads going directly to college
- 47th in number of degrees/certificates awarded in relation to enrollment
- Percent of working-age adults with a college degree is declining with each younger age group

California Is Becoming Less Educated Than Other States

(Rank Among States in % with College Degrees)

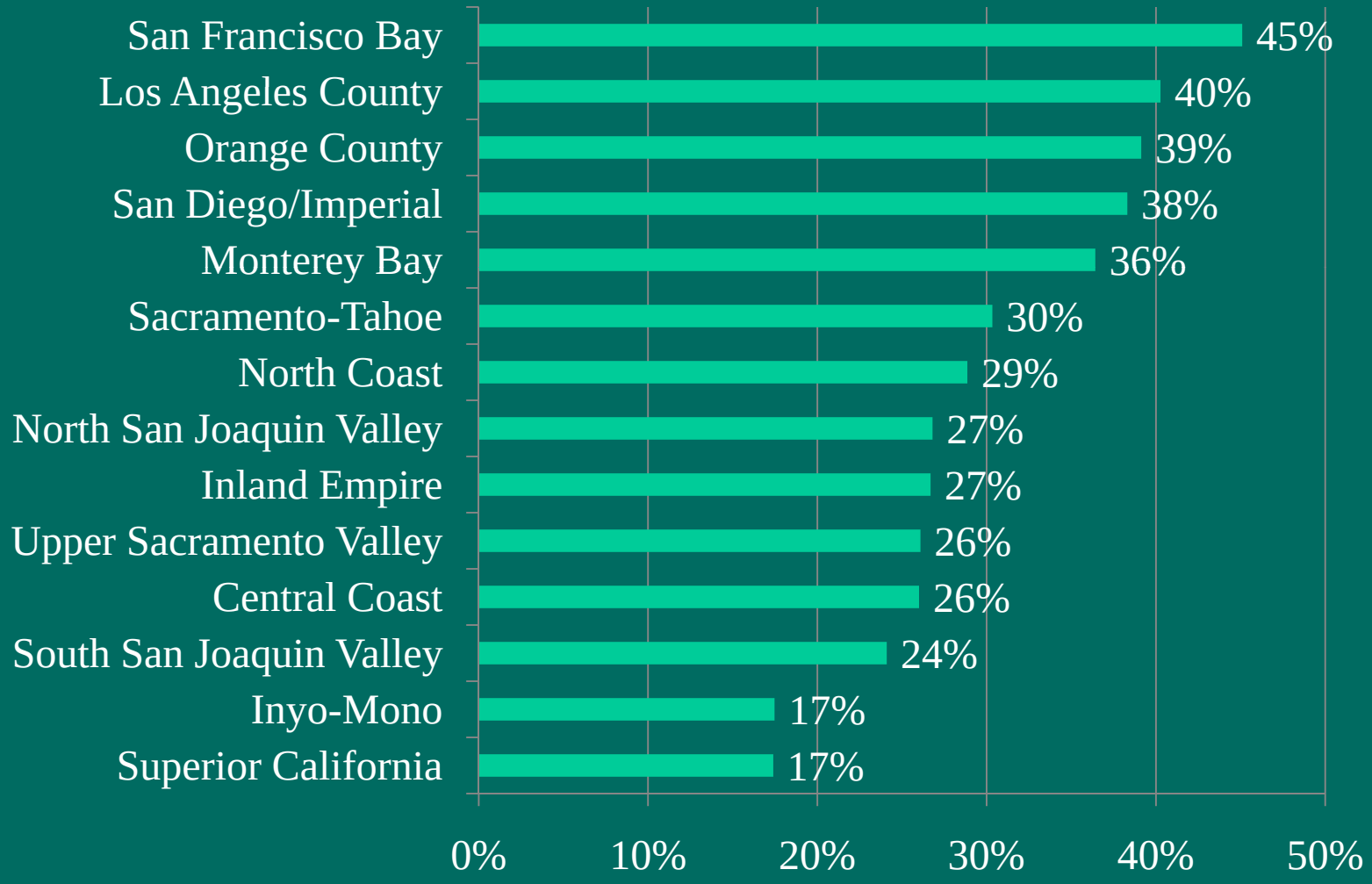
Age Group:	AA or Higher	BA or Higher
>64	3rd	4th
45-64	14th	13th
35-44	26th	17th
25-34	31st	26th



Regional and Group Differences are Big Factors

- Large, urban areas perform significantly better on most measures
- Growing regions – San Joaquin Valley and Inland Empire – lag
- Latinos and blacks lag whites and Asians at every point along pipeline

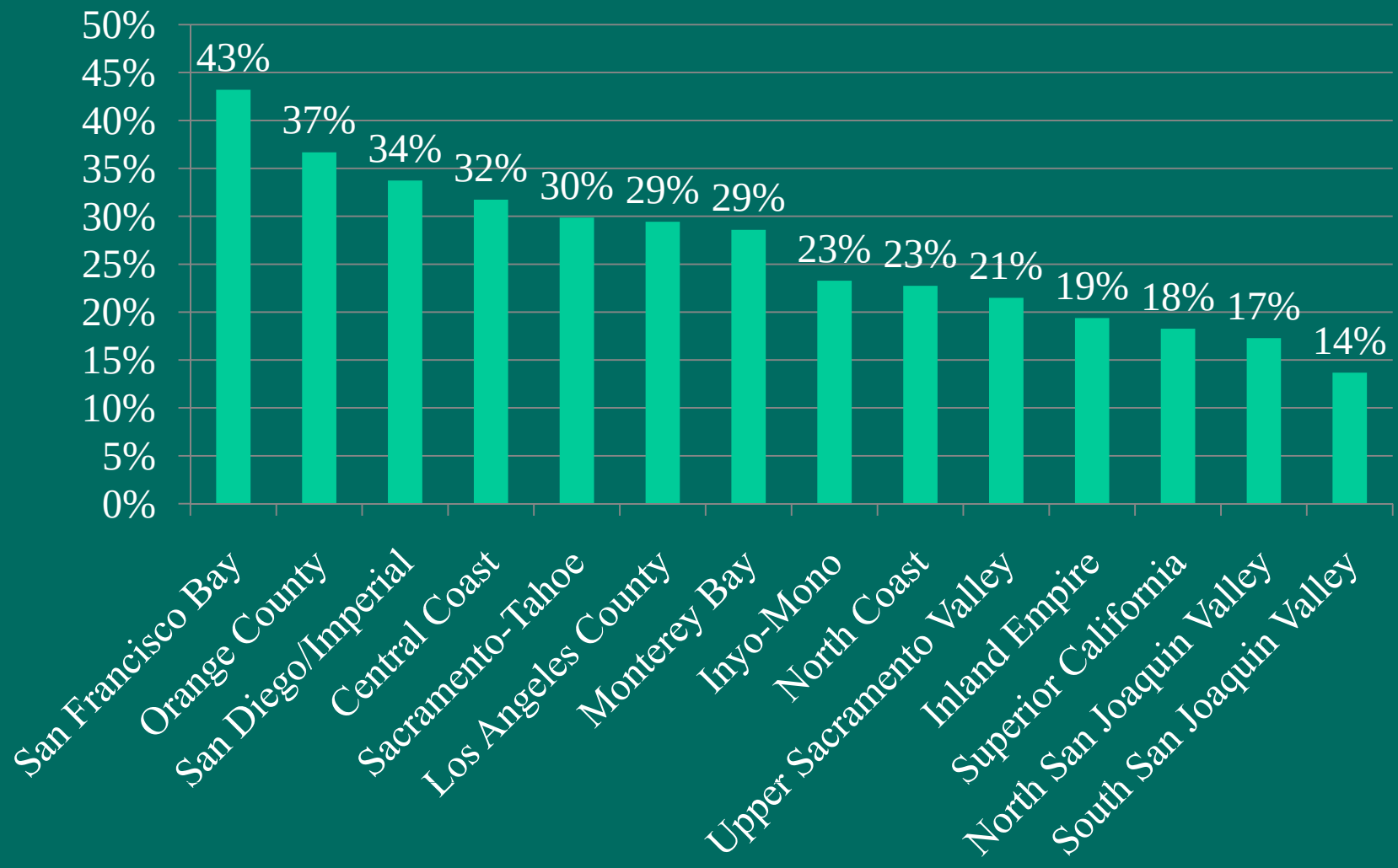
Regional Variation:
Share of HS Graduates Completing a-g



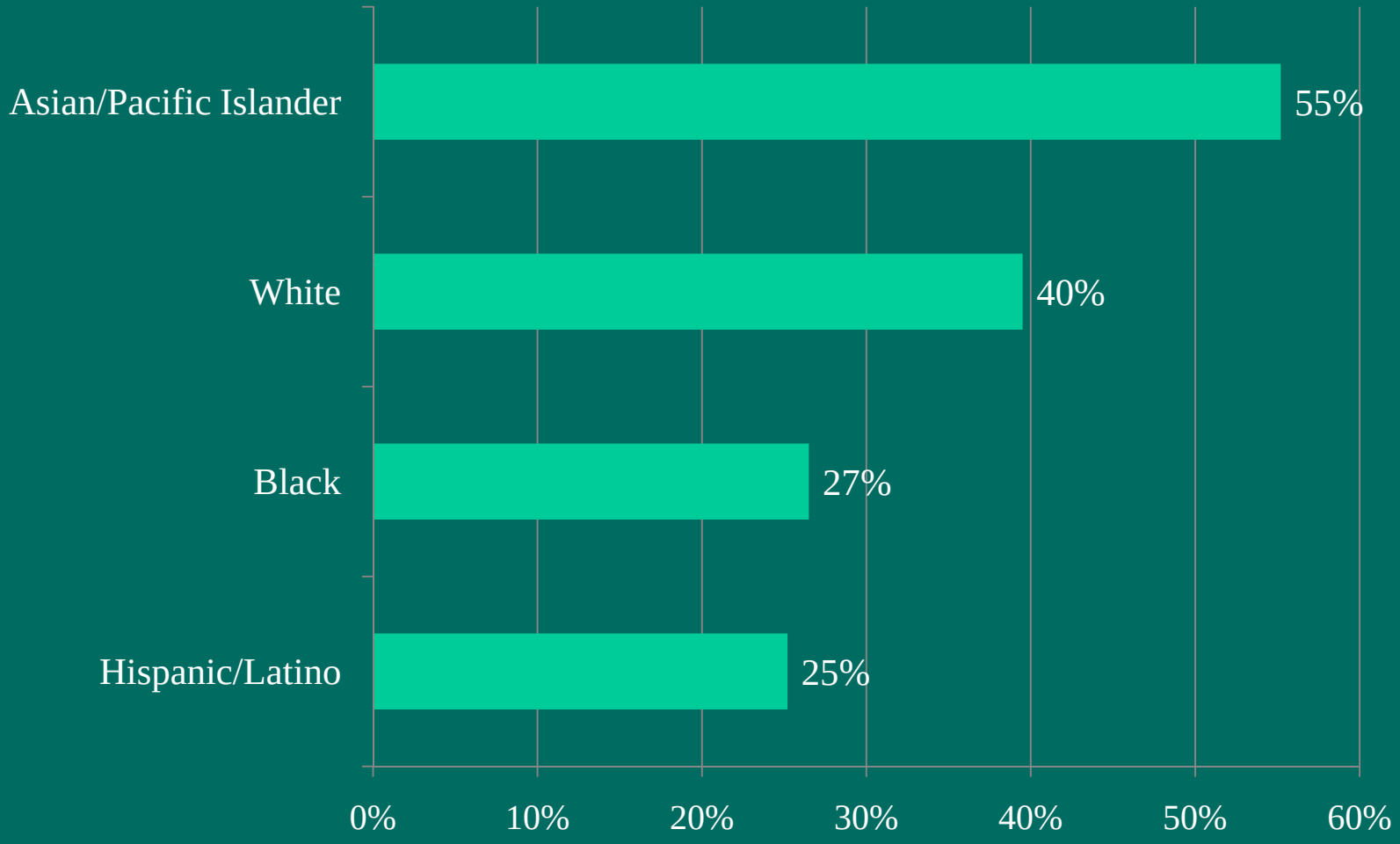
Regional Variation:
Percent of 18-24 Year Olds Enrolled in College

Region	
Upper Sacramento Valley	56%
Central Coast	52%
Orange County	49%
San Francisco Bay	47%
Monterey Bay	44%
Sacramento-Tahoe	43%
San Diego/Imperial	43%
Los Angeles County	43%
North San Joaquin Valley	34%
North Coast	33%
Inland Empire	33%
Superior California	32%
South San Joaquin Valley	26%

Regional Variation:
Percent of Working-Age Adults with BA

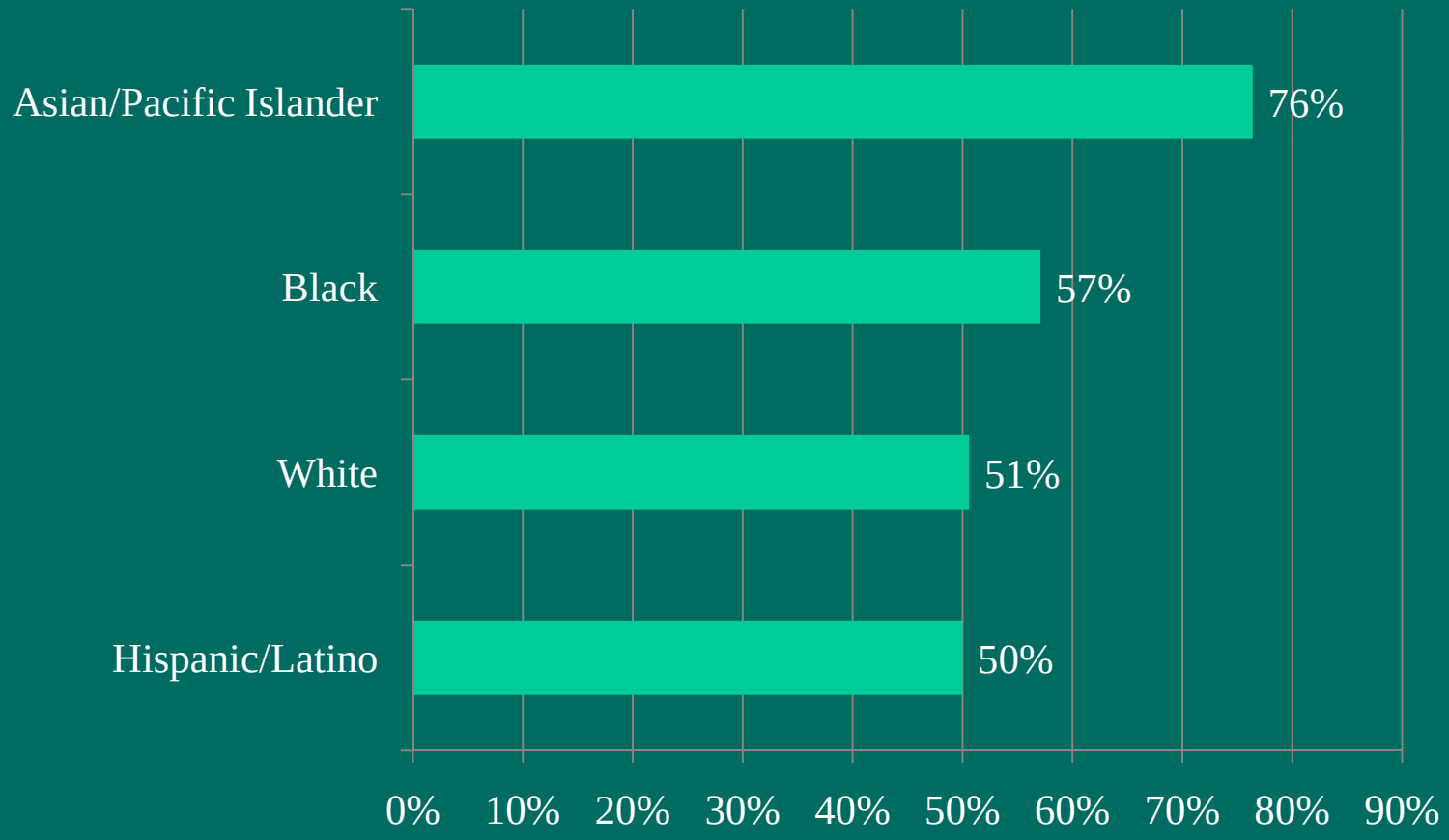


Racial/Ethnic Gaps in Share of HS Graduates Completing a-g



Racial/Ethnic Gaps in College-Going

While black and Latino HS grads go directly to college age about the same rate as white grads…



…more HS drop-outs in those populations results in large gaps in percent of young adults enrolled in college

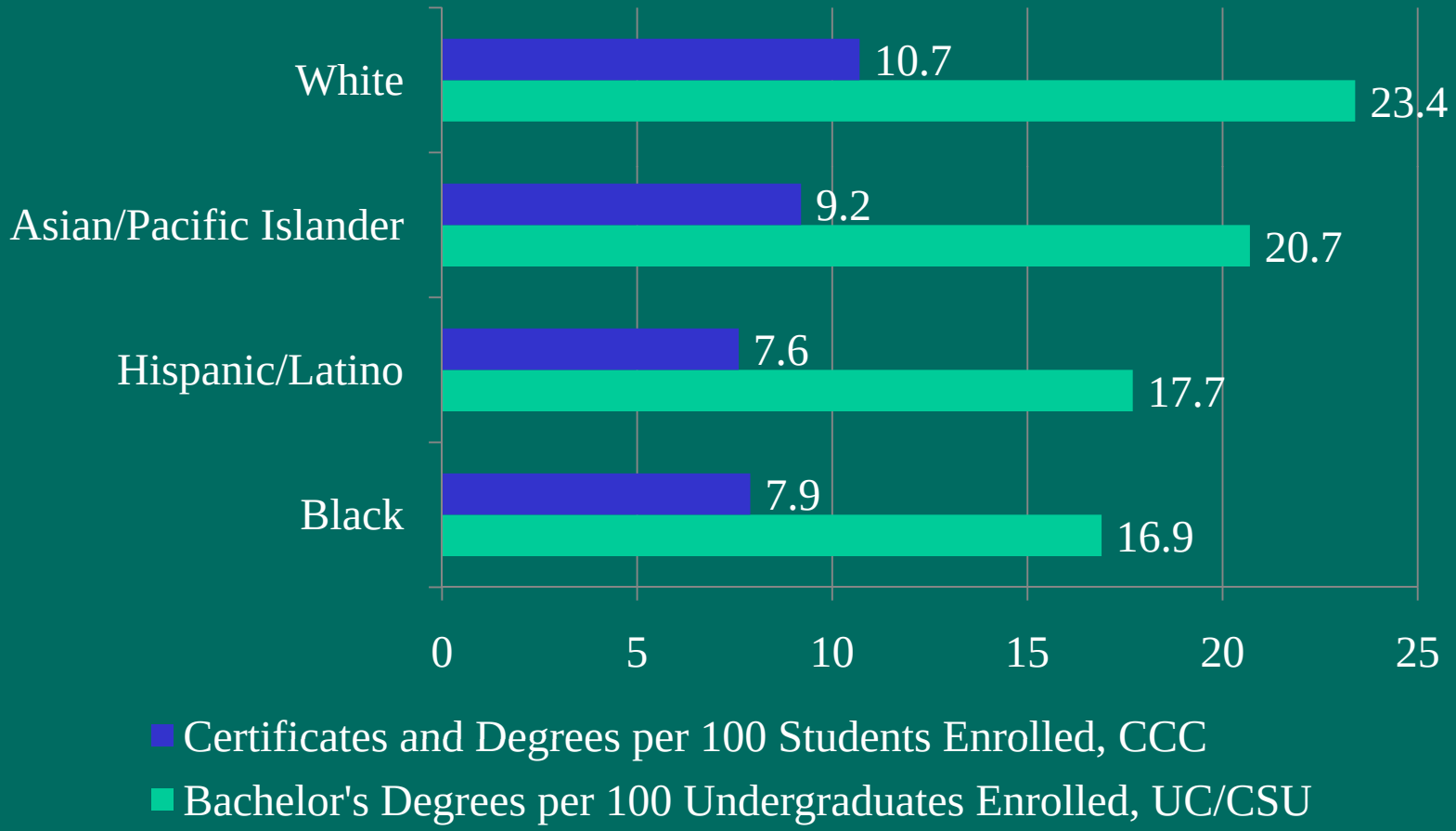
Race/Ethnicity	Percent of 18-24 Year Olds Enrolled in College
White	45%
Black	35%
Hispanic or Latino	27%

Do equal rates of college going = equal opportunity?

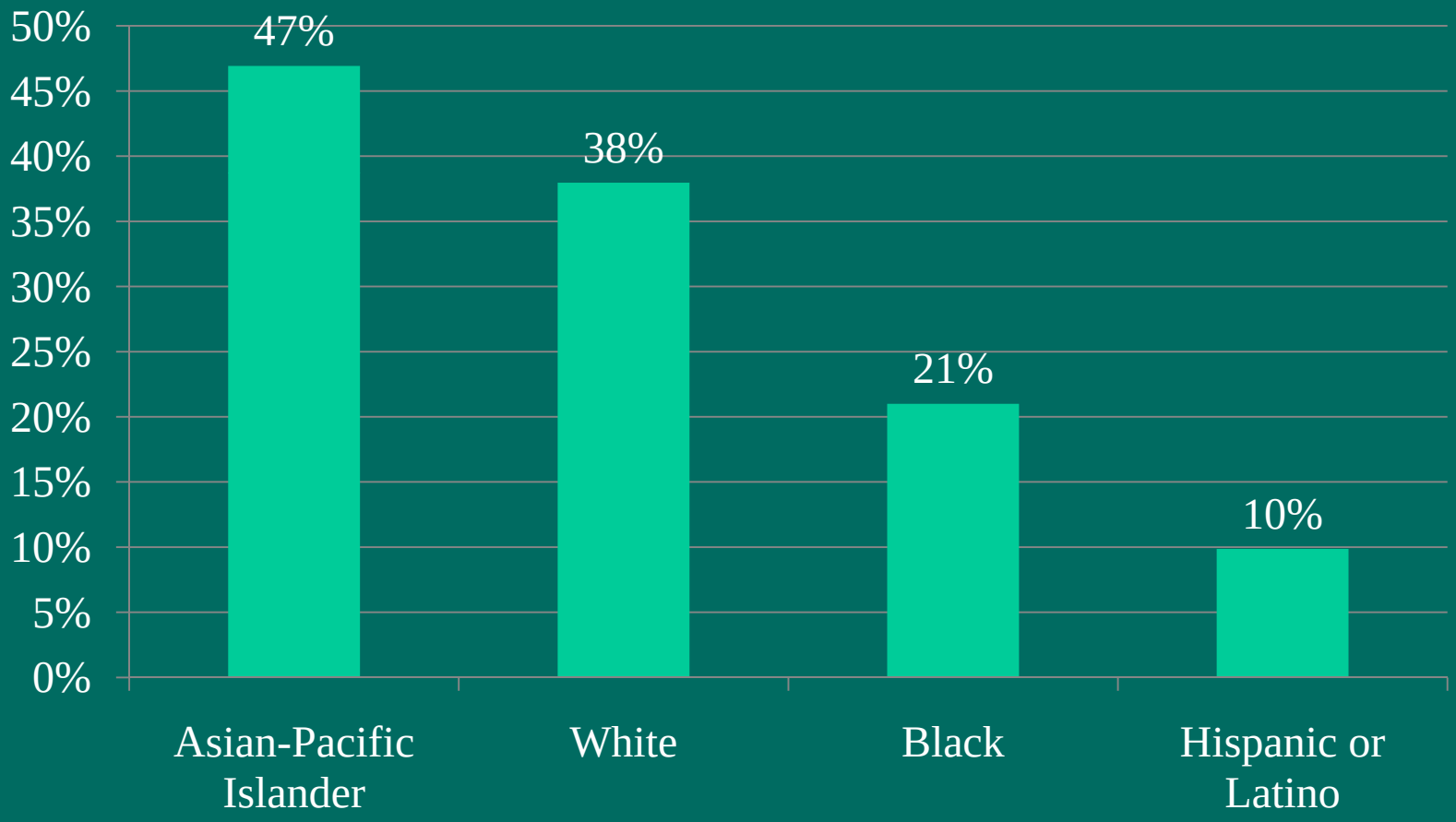
- Blacks and Latinos are more concentrated in CCC
  - 80% of blacks and Latinos students are in CCC
  - Compared to 70% of whites
- CCC receive much less support per student
- CCC have lower completion rates – much more part-time, less financial aid
- Adds up to big gaps in degree attainment

Racial/Ethnic Gaps in Number of Degrees Awarded as a Share of Enrollment

Rate of award compared to enrollment is at least one-third higher for white students than for blacks and Latinos

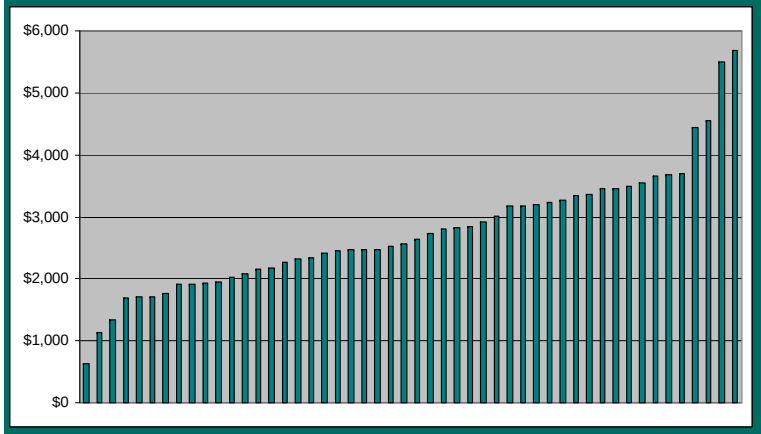


Racial/Ethnic Gaps in Percent of Adults with a BA



College is becoming less affordable for all, with more impact on lower-income populations

Year	UC Fee	CSU Fee
2001-02	$3,839	$1,877
2002-03	$3,997	$2,005
2003-04	$5,490	$2,572
2004-05	$6,266	$2,915
2005-06	$6,791	$3,164
2006-07	$6,834	$3,199
2007-08	$7,494	$3,523
2008-09	$8,014	$3,849
Total Increase	109%	105%
Avg Annual Increase	11.6%	11.1%



Affordability problem in CCC is real but has little to do with fees

- At $20 per unit, full-time = $600
- Lowest of 50 states; national average is $2400
- But…high cost of living and low average incomes at bottom of income distribution =>
- High share of family income required to pay all college costs
- True for UC, CSU, and CCC

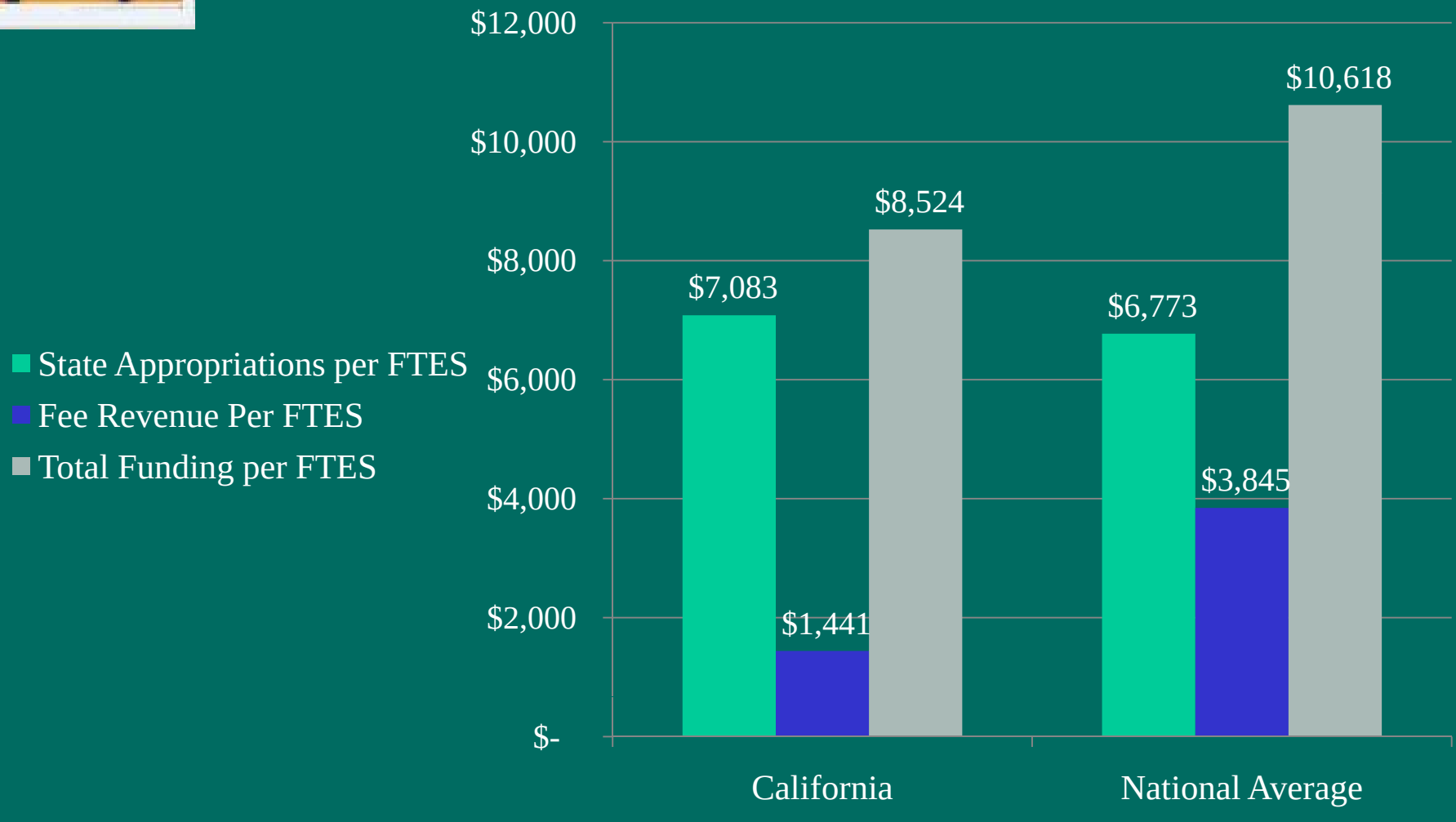
Not all bad news; some good trends to build on

- Significant gains in preparation at middle school level
  - Now top state in percent of 8th graders taking algebra, after substantial increases in recent years
  - Improvements in 8th grade CST proficiency in math and language arts *across all racial/ethnic groups*
- Increase in college-going rate directly from high school *across all groups*
- Graduation rates for full-time college students continue to be good and a larger share of full-time CCC students returning for a second year

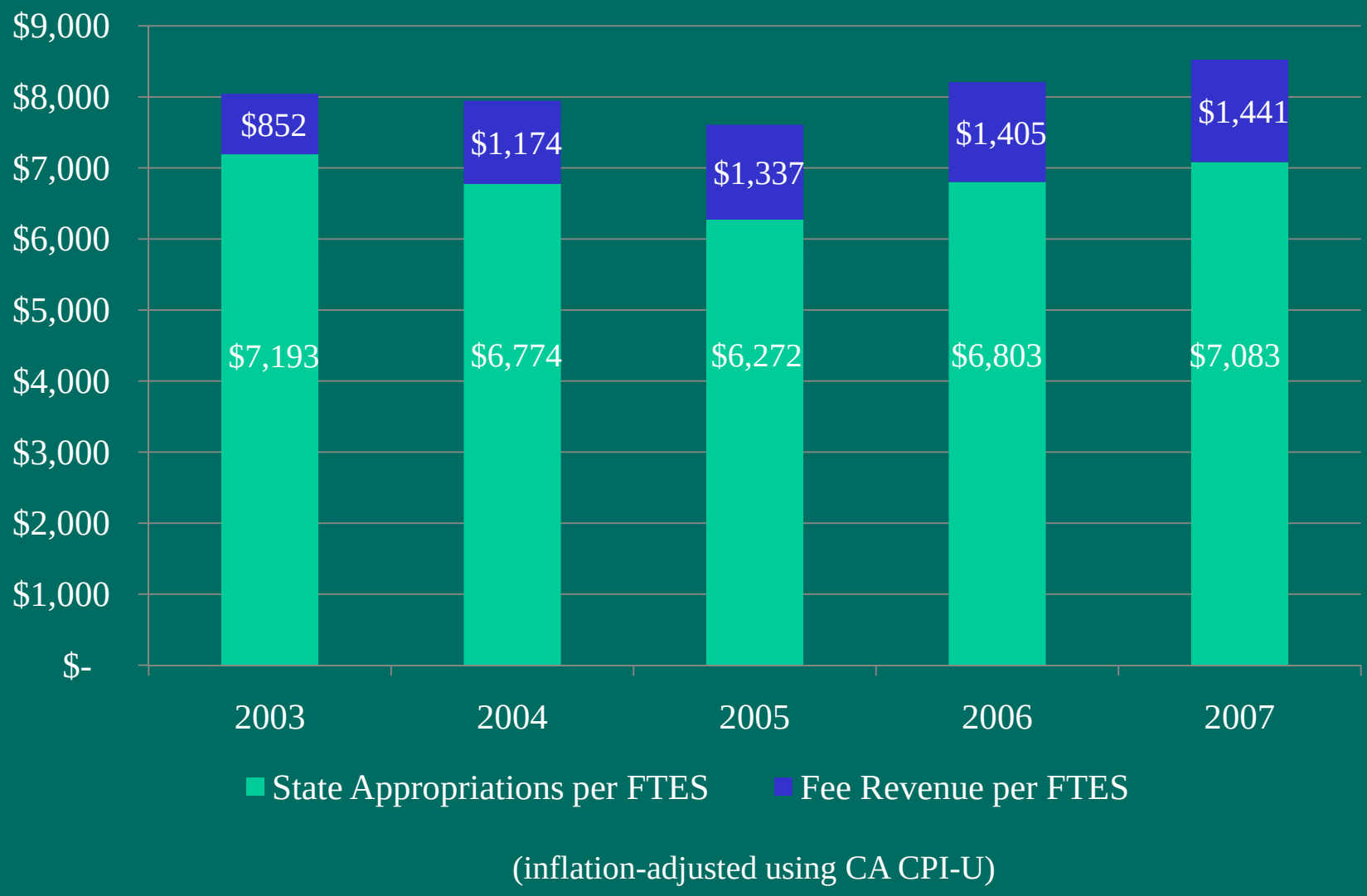
Summing up – some key issues

- Lack of college readiness – K-16 collaboration
- Declining college participation?
- Displacement of under-represented students?
- Low degree completion and workforce shortage
- Strength in high technology in jeopardy
- Disparities across regions and race/ethnicity
- Reduced state budgets

Above the national average in state support but well below average in total support …



… and state support has not returned to 2003 levels



(inflation-adjusted using CA CPI-U)

But budget cannot be an excuse to ignore warnings – policy leadership is needed

Low-cost/high impact actions:
A Public Agenda for Higher Education

- Master Plan has fostered a divided, segmental approach
- A “public agenda” sets goals for meeting statewide needs
  - with policies, budgets, plans, accountability
- College readiness plan
- Fees/affordability policy
- Regional planning aligned with state framework

Some low-cost policy changes

- Give institutions more flexibility to use resources to best serve students
- Incorporate incentives for degree completion into funding mechanism
- Focus state subsidies on highest priority missions - increasing educational attainment and workforce quality
- Establish and communicate clearer pathways for students to follow toward credentials

More costly policy changes for when fiscal climate improves

- Revise assessment/placement process at CCC
- Better financial aid options - especially for CCC students
- Enhance student support services to help students get and stay on track
- Adopt incentives to encourage degrees in STEM fields or other high priority areas
- Identify and address gaps in higher education data systems and build analytic capacity

Yes we can