

Going to College and How to Pay For It: Perceptions of Low-Income, High School Students

Preliminary Survey Findings

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College Access and Financial Aid Survey: Areas of Analysis

- Asked 11th and 12th graders their plans after high school.
- Examined perceptions of paying for college and impact of financial aid information.
- Investigated differences of financial aid perceptions by grade level and college aspiration.

Methodology

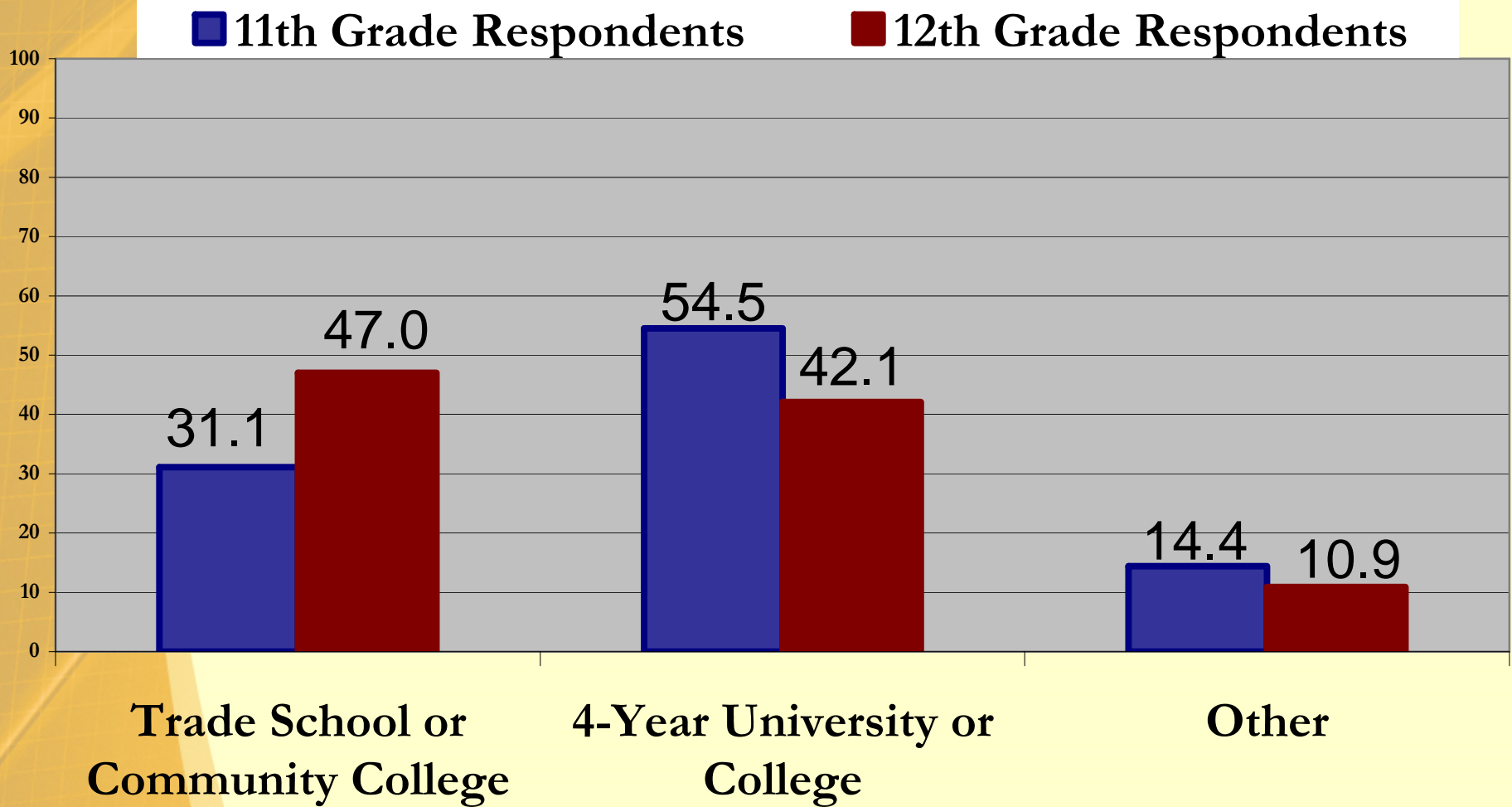
- Preliminary results based on 5 high schools in the Los Angeles County area.
- Surveys were administered in English classes or homeroom, depending on the school.
- Response rate of 52%.

Description of the Respondents

N=2,712

- 54% are in 11th grade.
- 54% are female.
- 39% have a C average; 35% have a B average; 15% have an A average.
- 69% are Latino/a; 12% are African American; 10% are Asian American/PI.
- 80% are U.S. citizens.
- Parents with some high school or less: 55%.

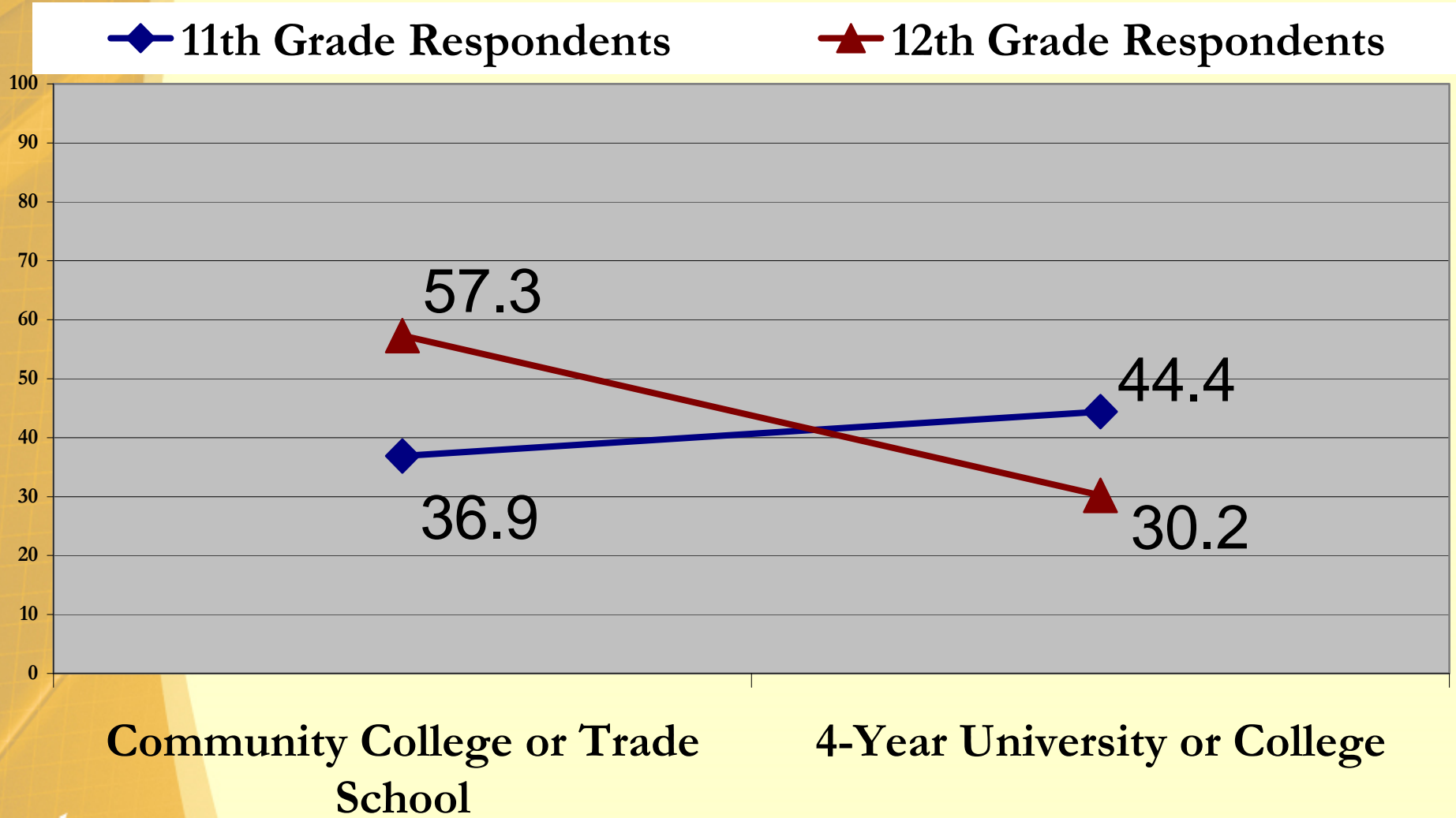
Plans After High School by Grade Level (%)



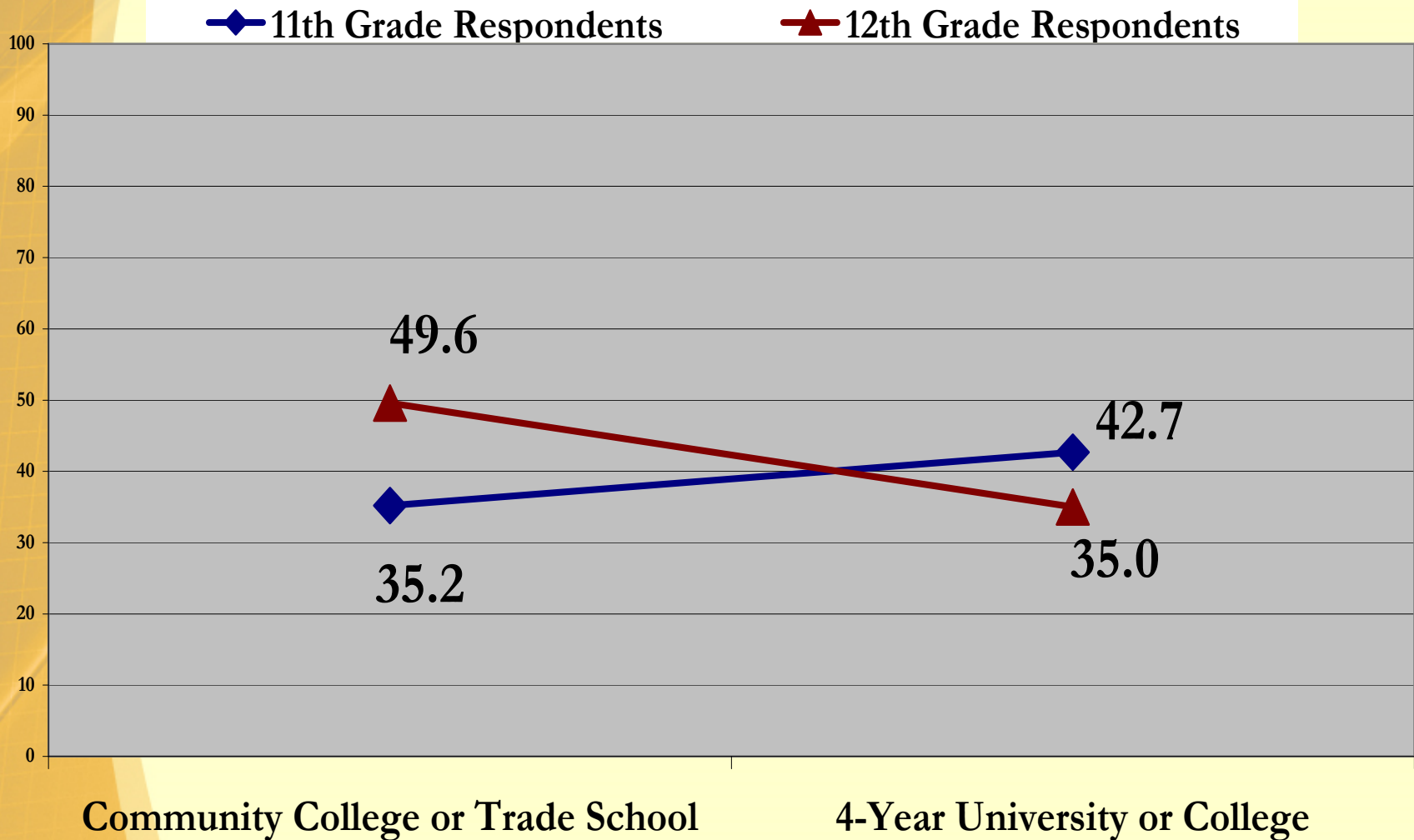
Impact of Financial Aid Information: All Respondents

- Sources
- How Often They Hear About FA
- Uses of FA Information

"College is Too Expensive for Me to Attend."
 (Percentage who "Strongly Agree" or "Agree")

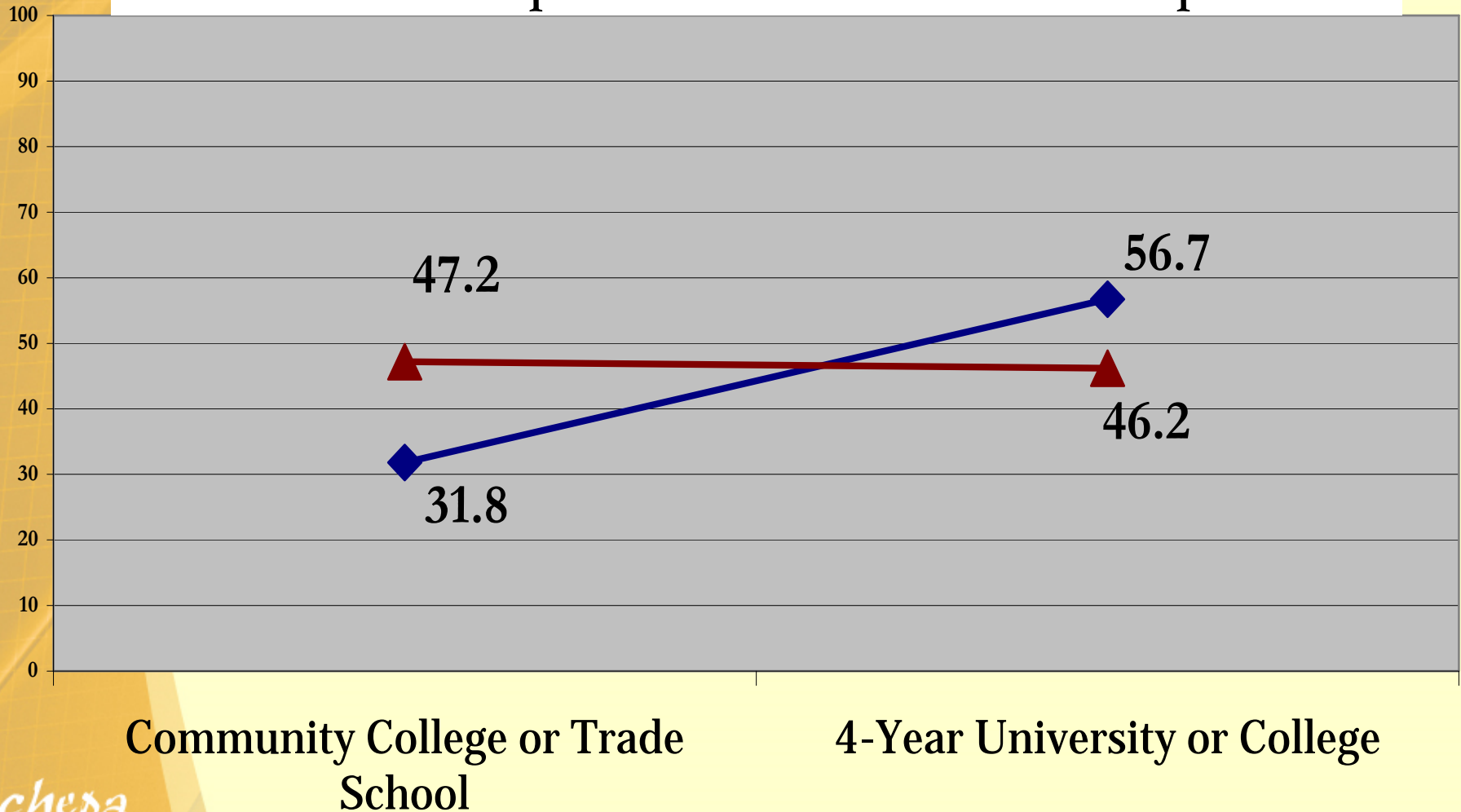


"Applying for Financial Aid is Too Complicated."
 (Percent who "Strongly Agree" to "Agree")



"My Parents Will Help Me Pay for College."
 (Percent who "Strongly Agree" or "Agree")

◆ 11th Grade Respondents ▲ 12th Grade Respondents



Implications

- Need to further explore the differences in perception between the 11th and 12th grade respondents.
- Need to understand the college-going culture at these urban high schools.
- Value of providing financial aid information to these underserved students.