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# The Role of Institutional Characteristics in the Bachelor's Degree Completion of Pell Grant Recipients

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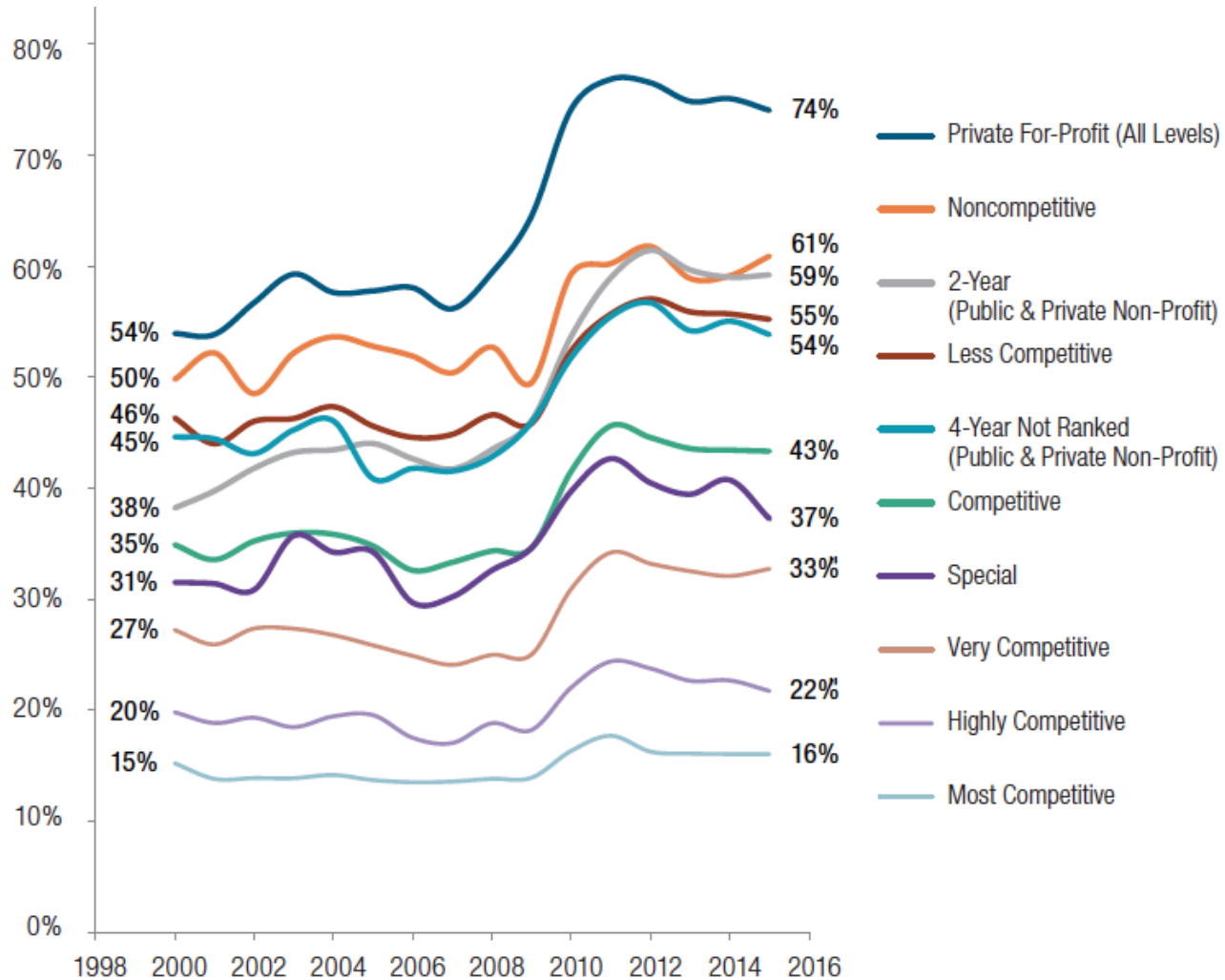
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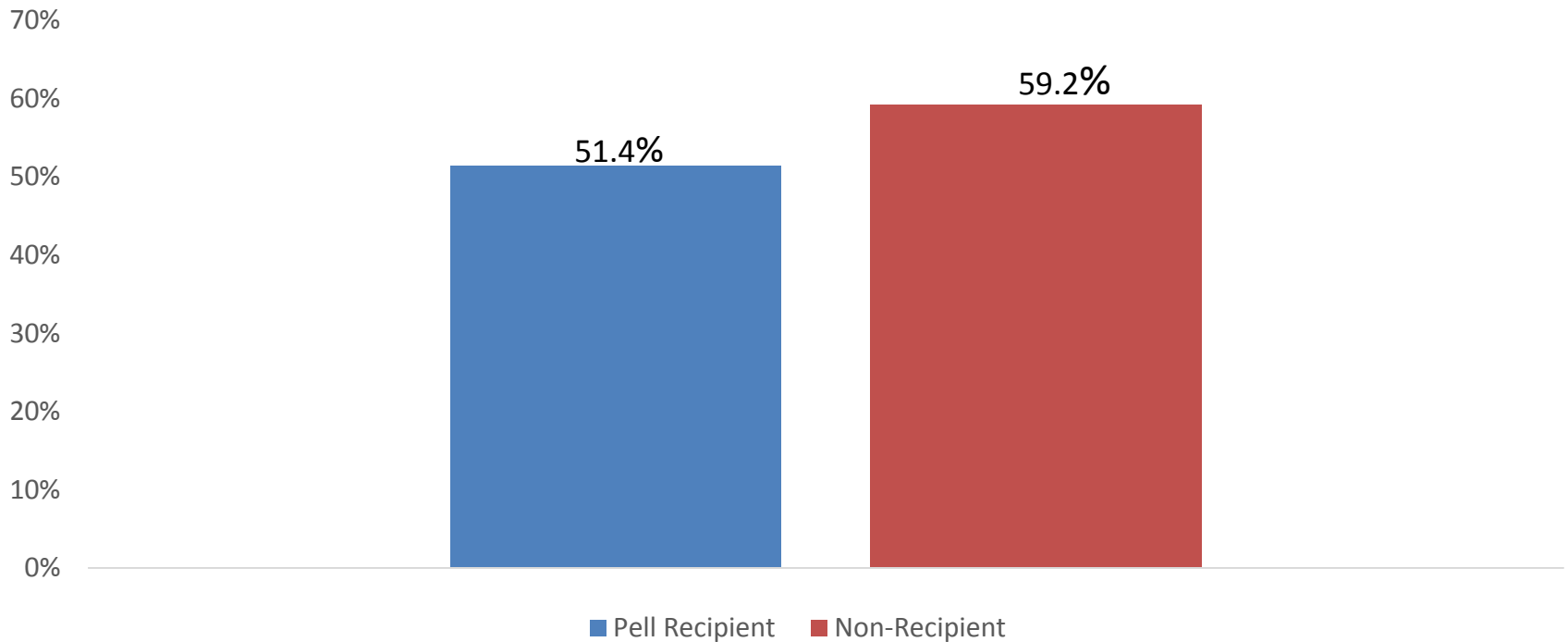


# Where are they going?



# How are they doing?

## 6-year Bachelor's Degree Attainment (fall 2010 cohort)



Kelchen, R. (2017, October 25). A look at Pell Grant recipients' graduation rates [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2017/10/25/a-look-at-pell-grant-recipients-graduation-rates/>

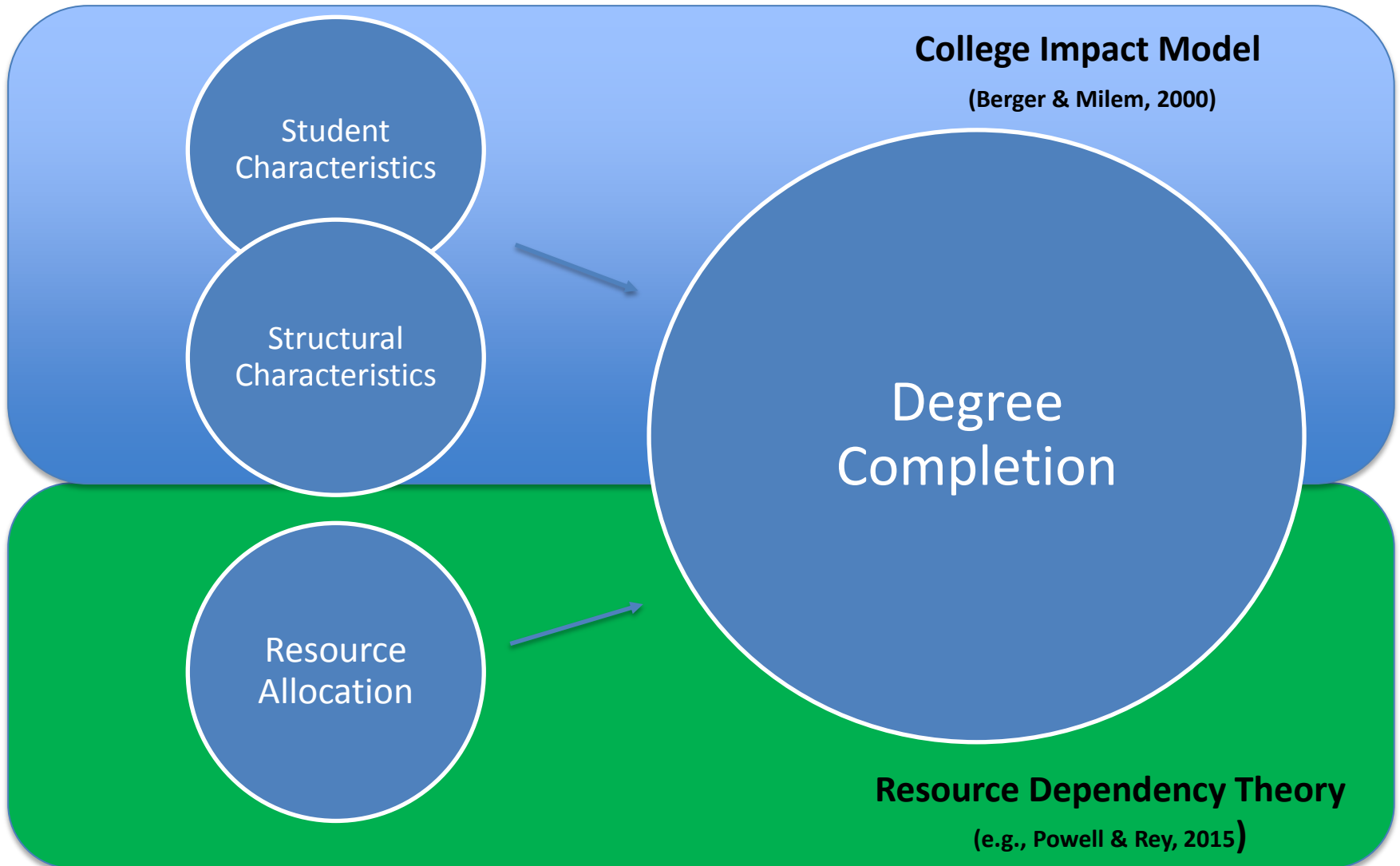
## High-performing Institutions



# Research Questions

1. What are the characteristics of public and private, not-for-profit four-year colleges and universities that enroll large shares of Pell Grant recipients?
2. What institutional characteristics are related to six-year bachelor's degree completion rates for Pell recipients and non-recipients?
3. Do the institutional predictors of bachelor's degree completion for Pell recipients differ from the institutional predictors of bachelor's degree completion for non-Pell recipients in the same sector?
4. Do the institutional predictors of bachelor's degree completion for Pell and non-Pell recipients differ for public and private, not-for-profit four-year institutions?

# Guiding Perspectives



# Data & Methodology

- Method:
  - Descriptive and OLS regression analyses
- Data:
  - Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
  - Delta Cost Project
    - Measures included graduation rates for Pell and non-Pell recipients, institution size and selectivity, student demographics, average net price of attendance, residential intensity, loan use, and percent of expenditures spent on instruction.

- Sample:

2,837

U.S. Title IV degree granting,  
four-year institutions



1,270

After excluding for-profit, special  
focus, and institutions with fewer  
than 50 Pell students



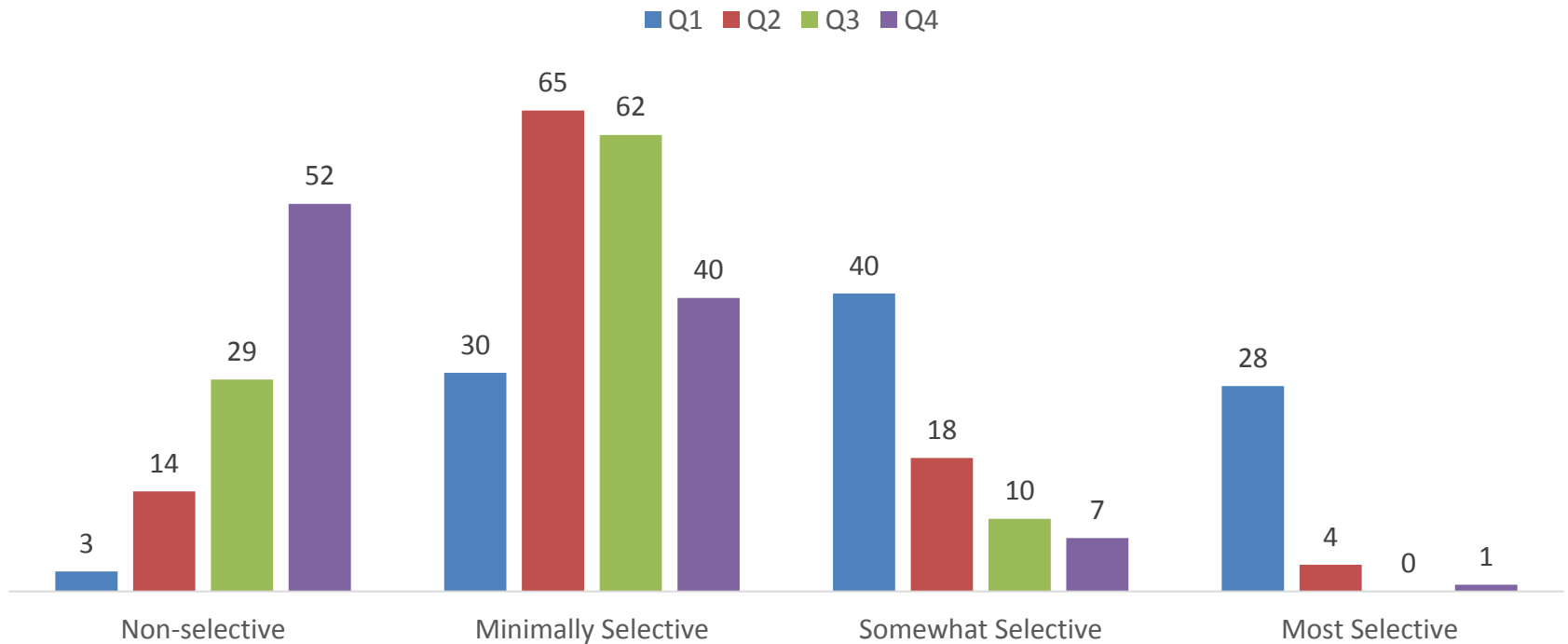
1,190

After dropping cases with missing  
data on outcome or regressor  
variables (approx. 7% of cases)



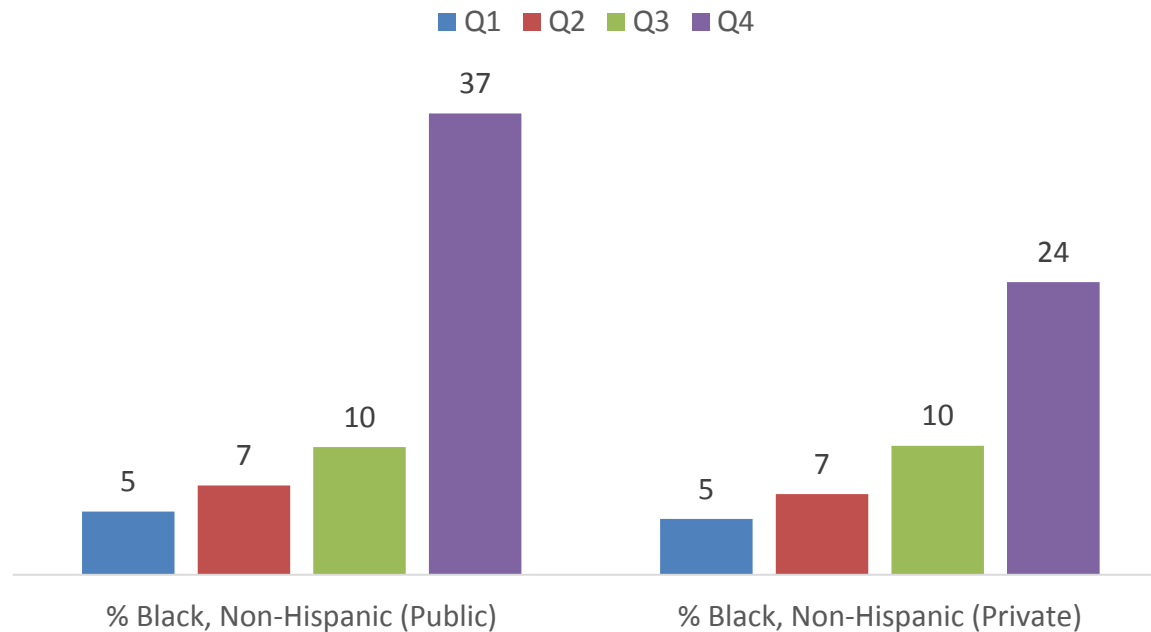
# Less Selective

Representation of Pell recipients by institutional selectivity

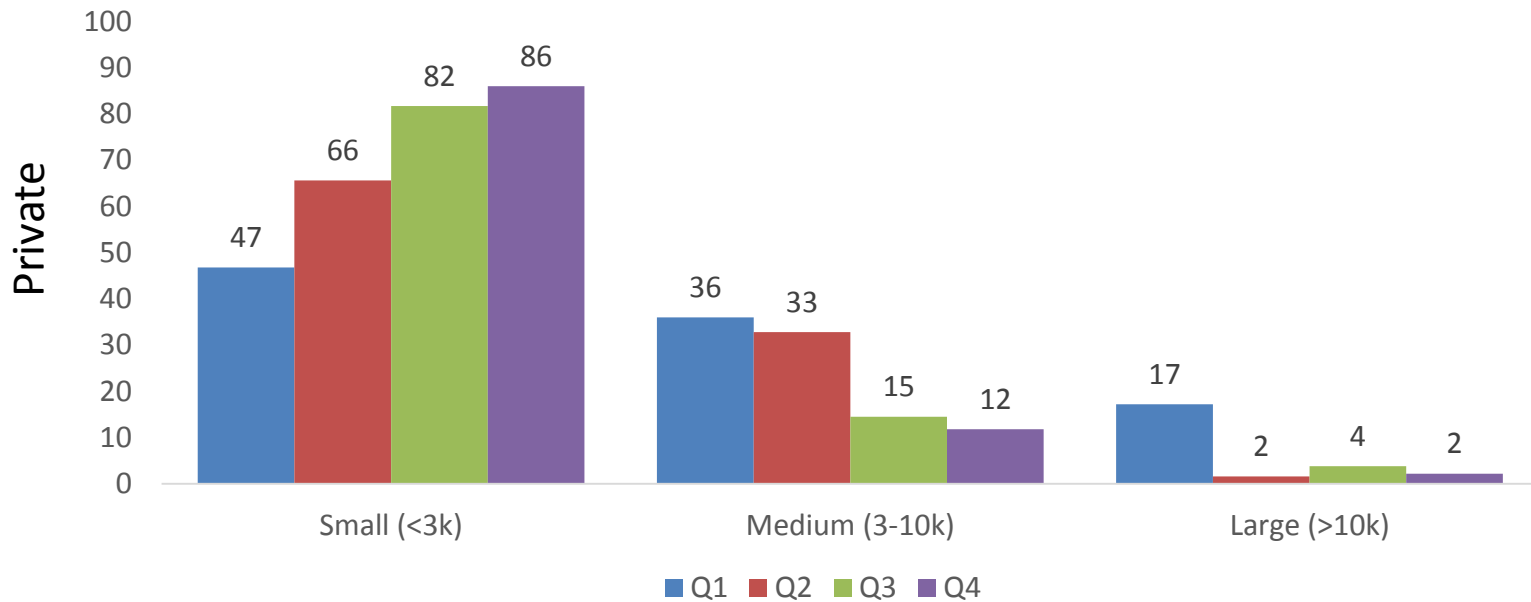
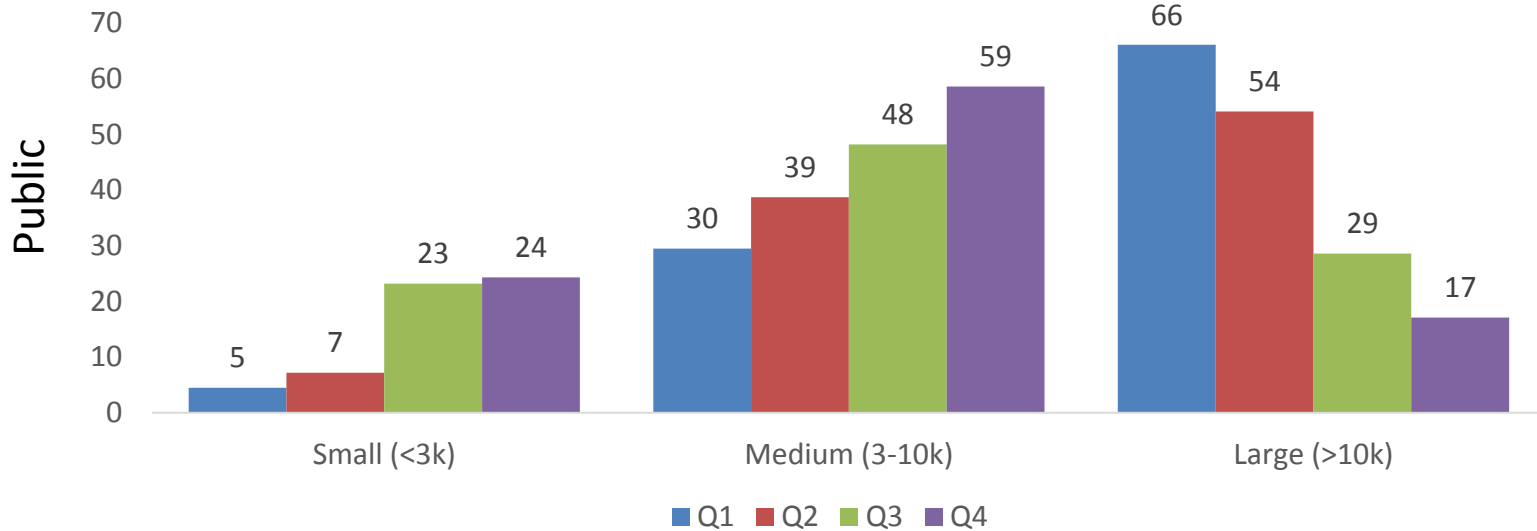


# Enroll larger shares of Black students

% Black, Non-Hispanic Undergraduates by Pell Representation and Sector

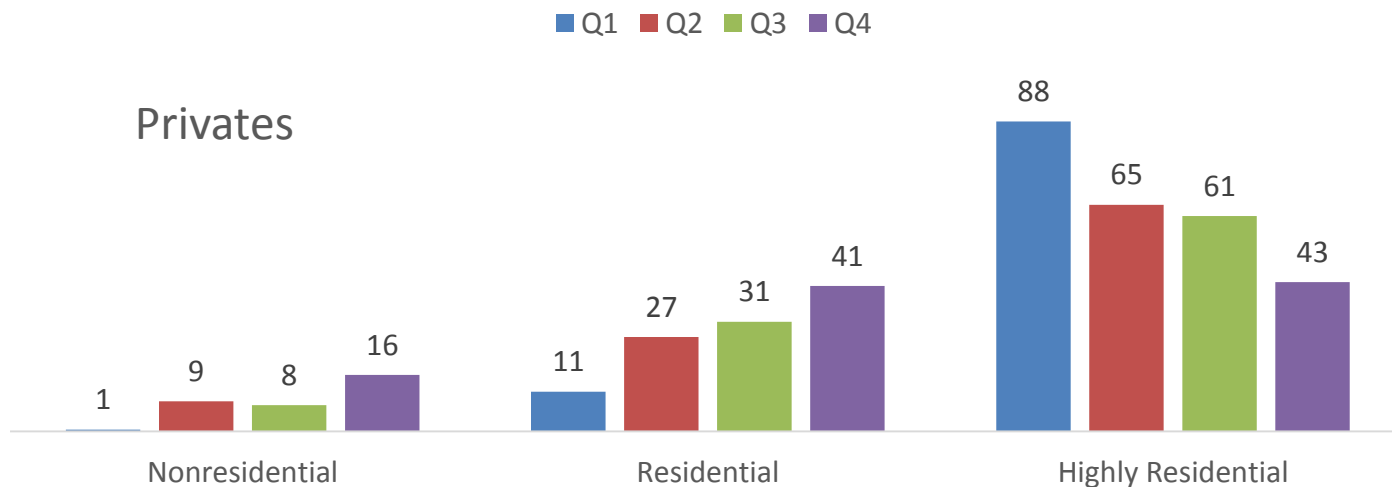
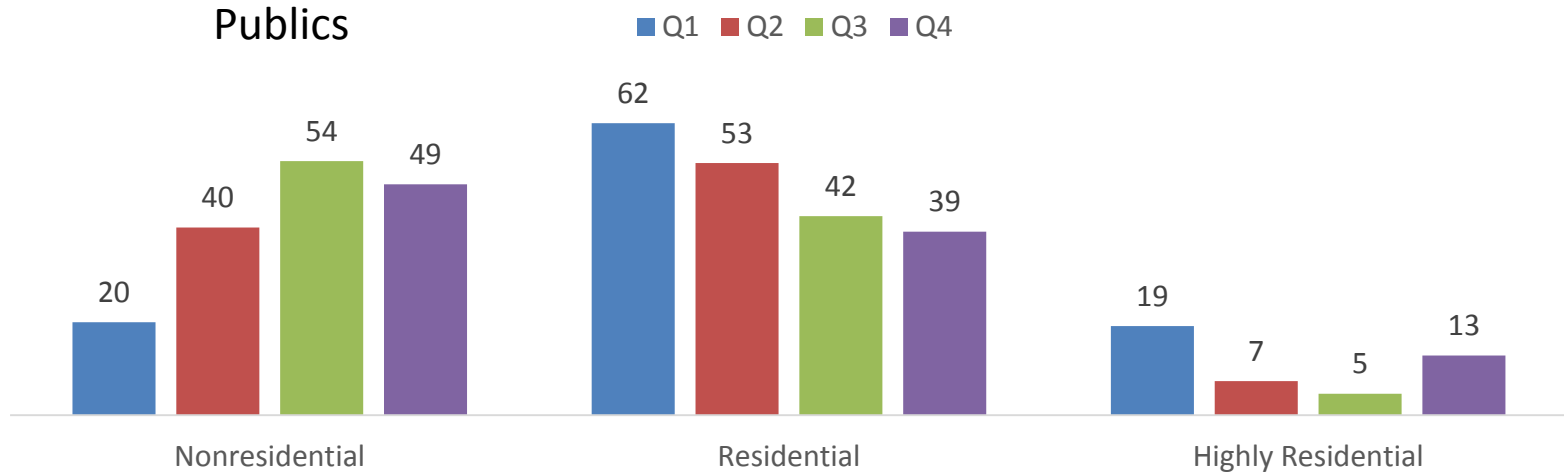


# Tend to enroll fewer undergraduates

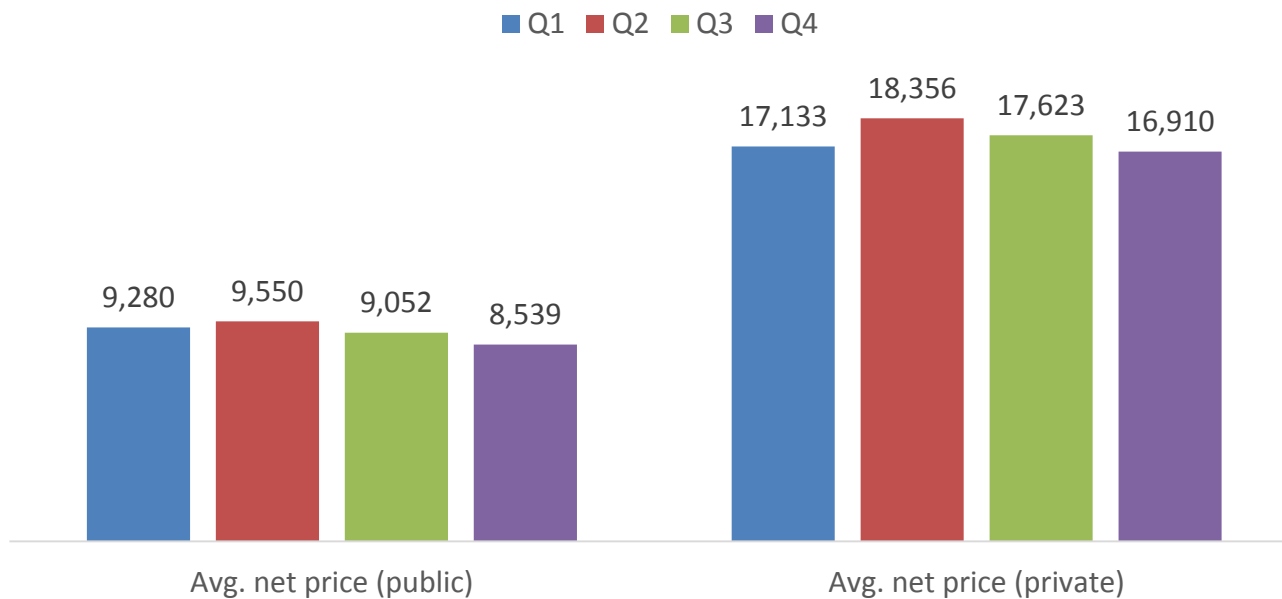
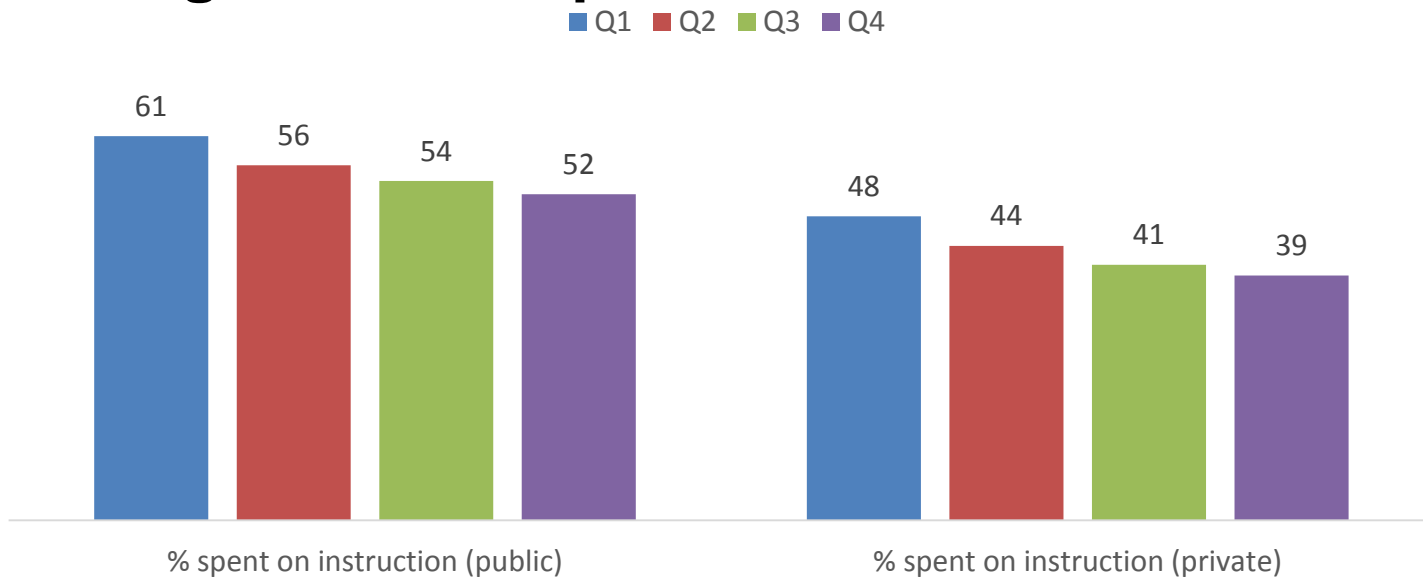


# Vary in Residential Intensity by Sector

Pell representation by residential intensity



# Allocate a smaller share of expenditures to instruction & average lower net price for low-income students



# Results of Regression Analyses

## Institutional Predictors of 6-year graduation rates for Pell and Non-Pell

Predictor	Pell Grad Rate	Non-Pell Grad Rate	Sector
Private	+	+	*
% of Pell recipients	-	-	Public and Private
Institutional selectivity	+	+	Public and Private
% degree-seeking students	+	+	Public
% loan borrowers	-	-	Private

# Results of Regression Analyses

## Institutional Predictors of 6-year graduation rates for Pell and Non-Pell

Predictor	Pell Grad Rate	Non-Pell Grad Rate	Sector
Residential Intensity	+	+	Public and Private
Size	+	+	Public and Private
% of expenditures for instruction	+		Public and Private
Net-price for low-income students	-	-	Public and Private

## Implications for Future Research

1. Predictors of degree completion at institutional subgroups
2. Practices at institutions performing better than expected
3. Predictors of completion for low-income students not captured by Pell



## Implications for Practice

1. Increase share of educational expenses allocated to instruction
2. Decrease average net price for low-income students
3. At private institutions, explore strategies that decrease the percentage of students leveraging loans to pay college costs



## Contact Us

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