

The Changing First-Year Student: Challenges for 2011

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Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA



CIRP Freshman Survey

- **Project of the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA**
- **Comprehensive survey of incoming first-time full-time college students**
- **Beginning of longitudinal research program that continues with the YFCY, DLE, and CSS**
- **45th year and over 15 million students total**

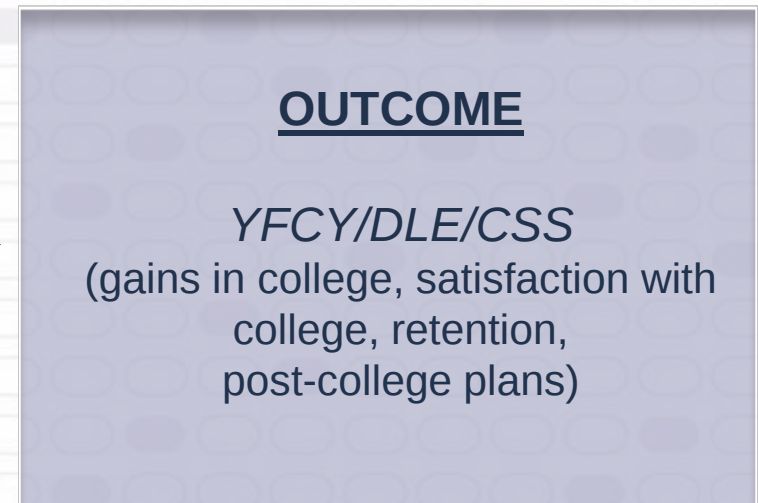
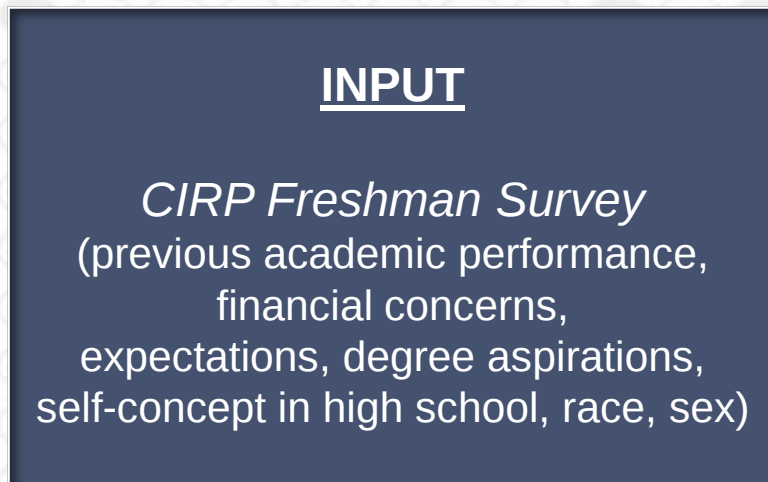
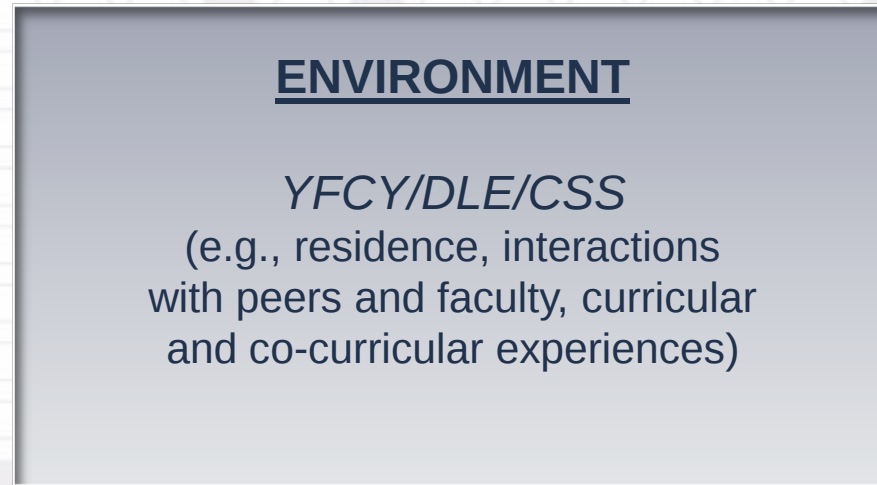
CIRP Freshman Survey 2010

- **Administered at**
 - 420 colleges and universities
 - 261,511 students
- **“Norms” (high response rates)**
 - 279 colleges and universities
 - 201,818 students
 - Weighted to the 1.5 million entering students in four-year institutions

CIRP Conceptual Framework

- Student experience is comprehensive, multifaceted and inter-related, not focused on one or two issues
- Look at cognitive and affective domains
- Collect data that is:
 - Behavioral (what students do, i.e., study, interact, etc)
 - Psychological (attitudes, values, self-concept)
 - Environmental (campus climate, residence type)

Astin's I-E-O Model



Emotional Health

Financial Concerns

Political Views

“Hidden” Disabilities

Gay and Lesbian Support

College Expectations

2010 FRESHMAN SURVEY FINDINGS

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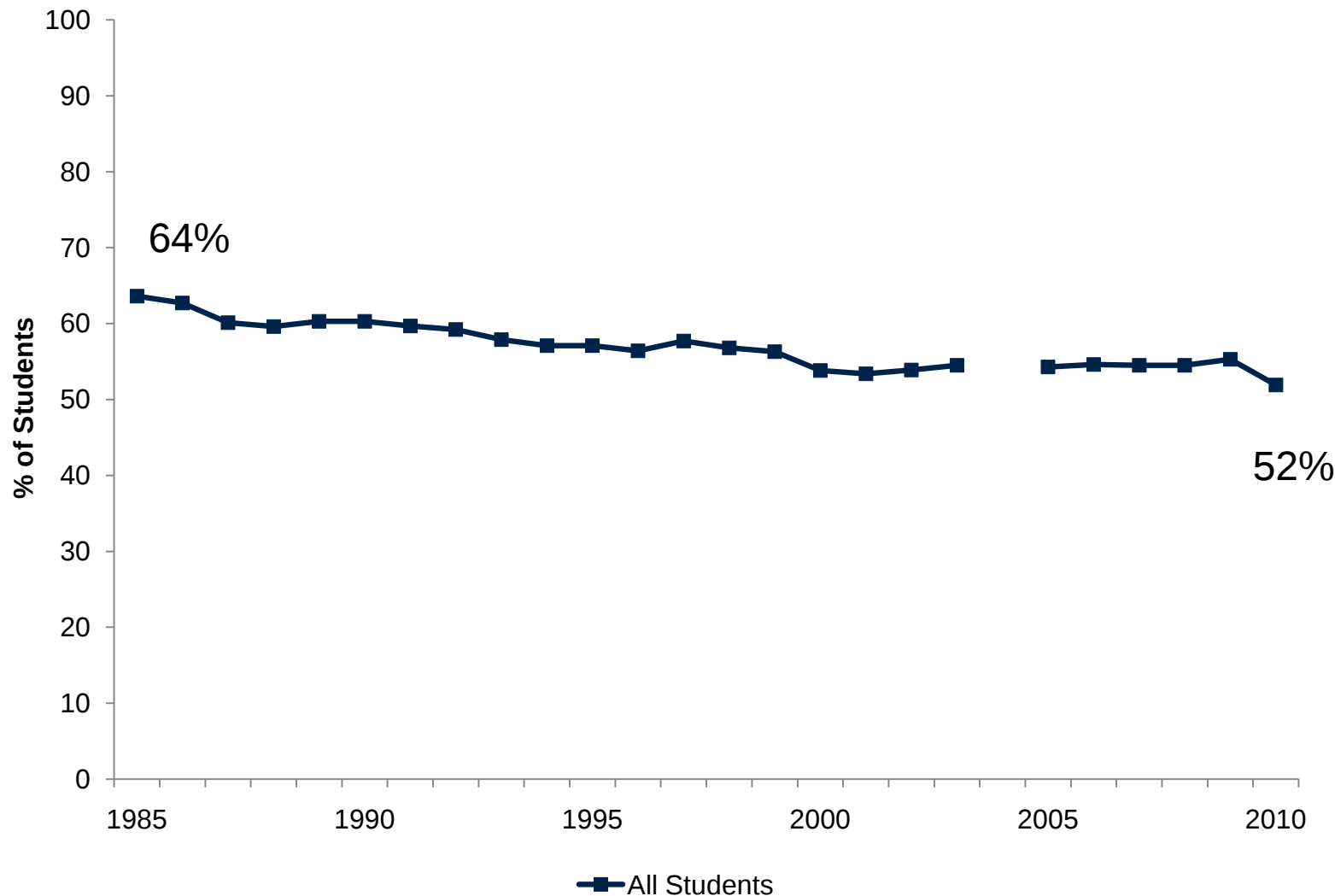
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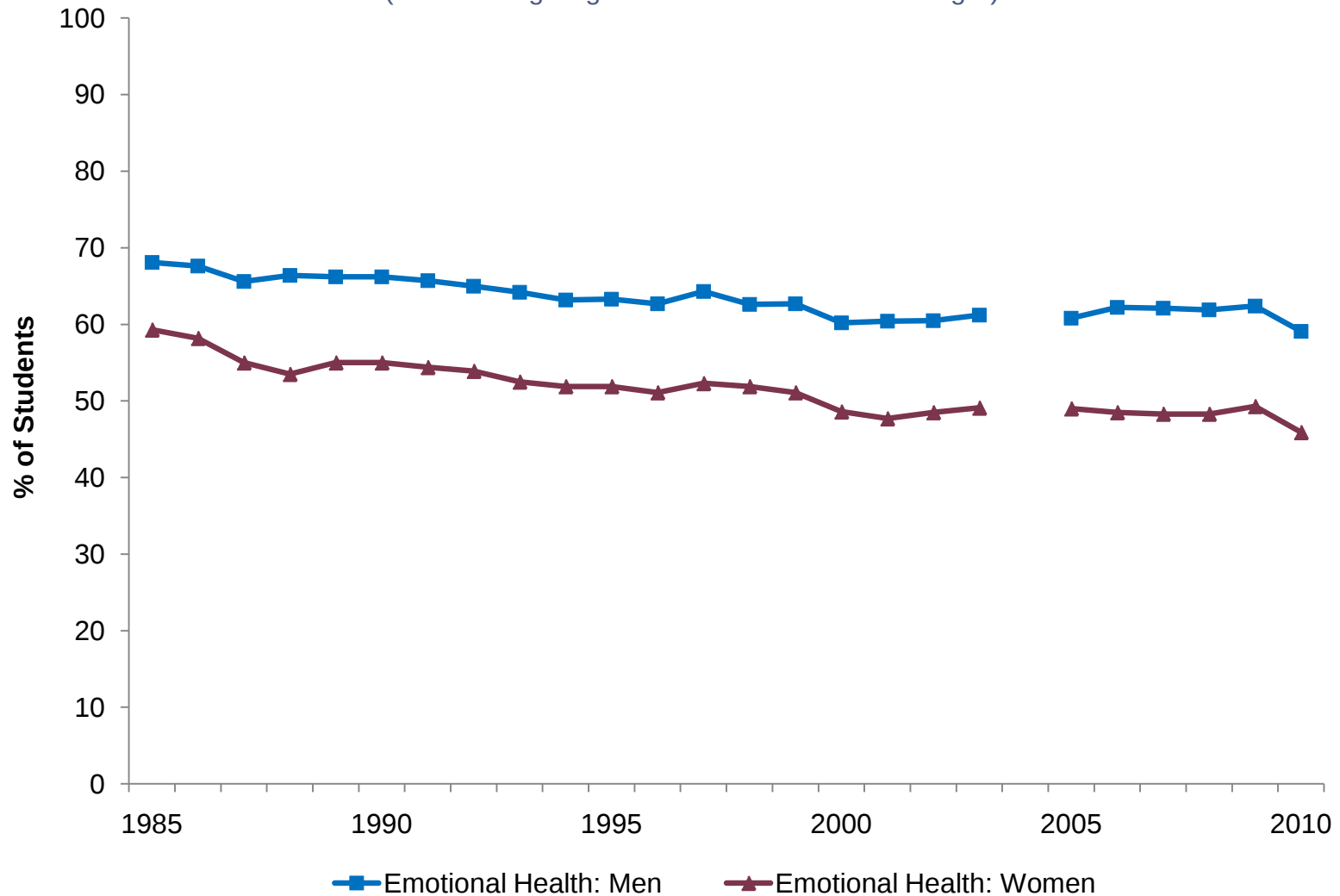
Emotional Health Self-Rating at 25-Year Low

(% Indicating “Highest 10%” and “Above Average”)



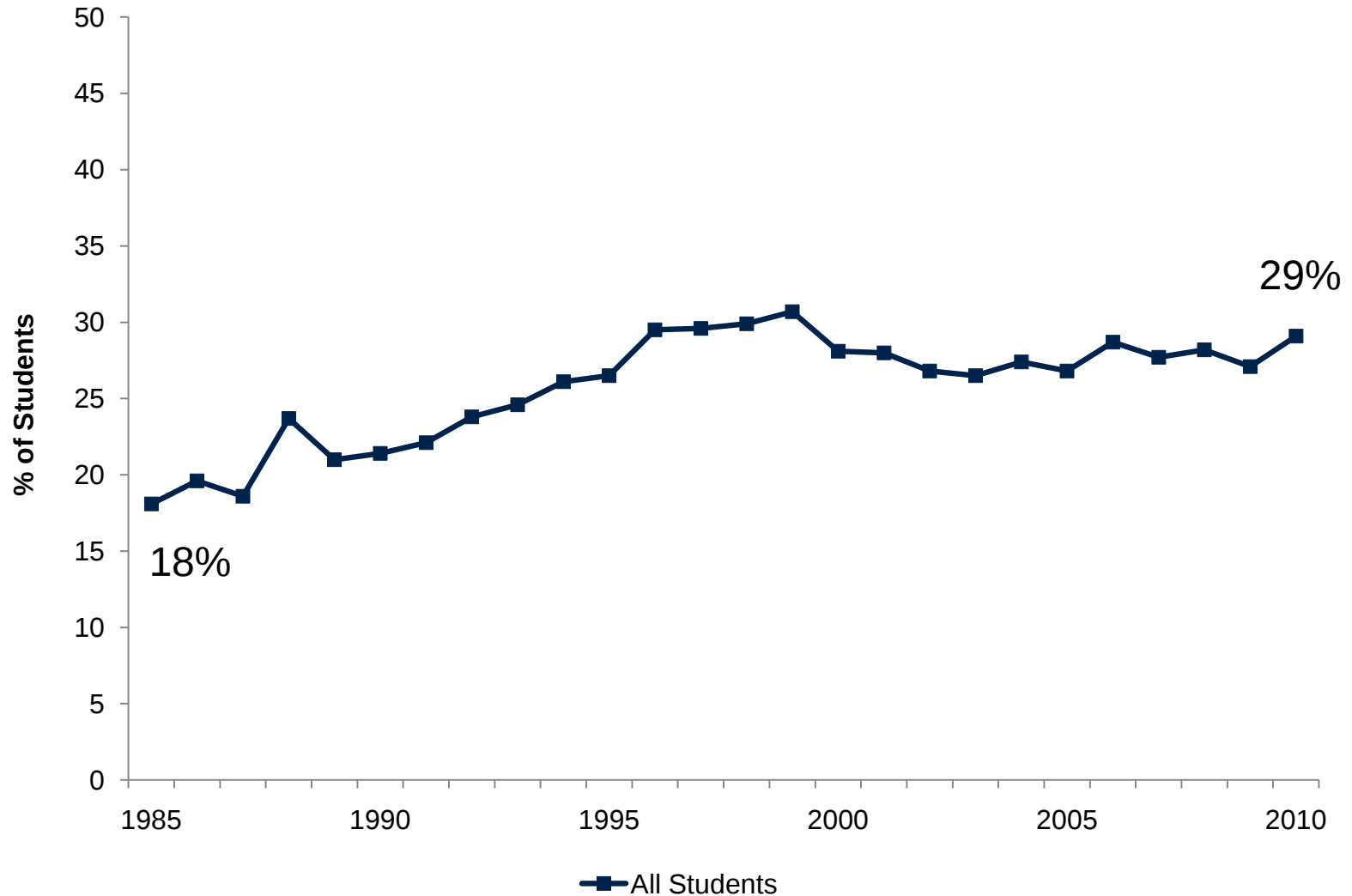
Fewer Women Rate Emotional Health High

Gap Increased 50%
(% Indicating "Highest 10%" and "Above Average")



Increase in Feeling Overwhelmed

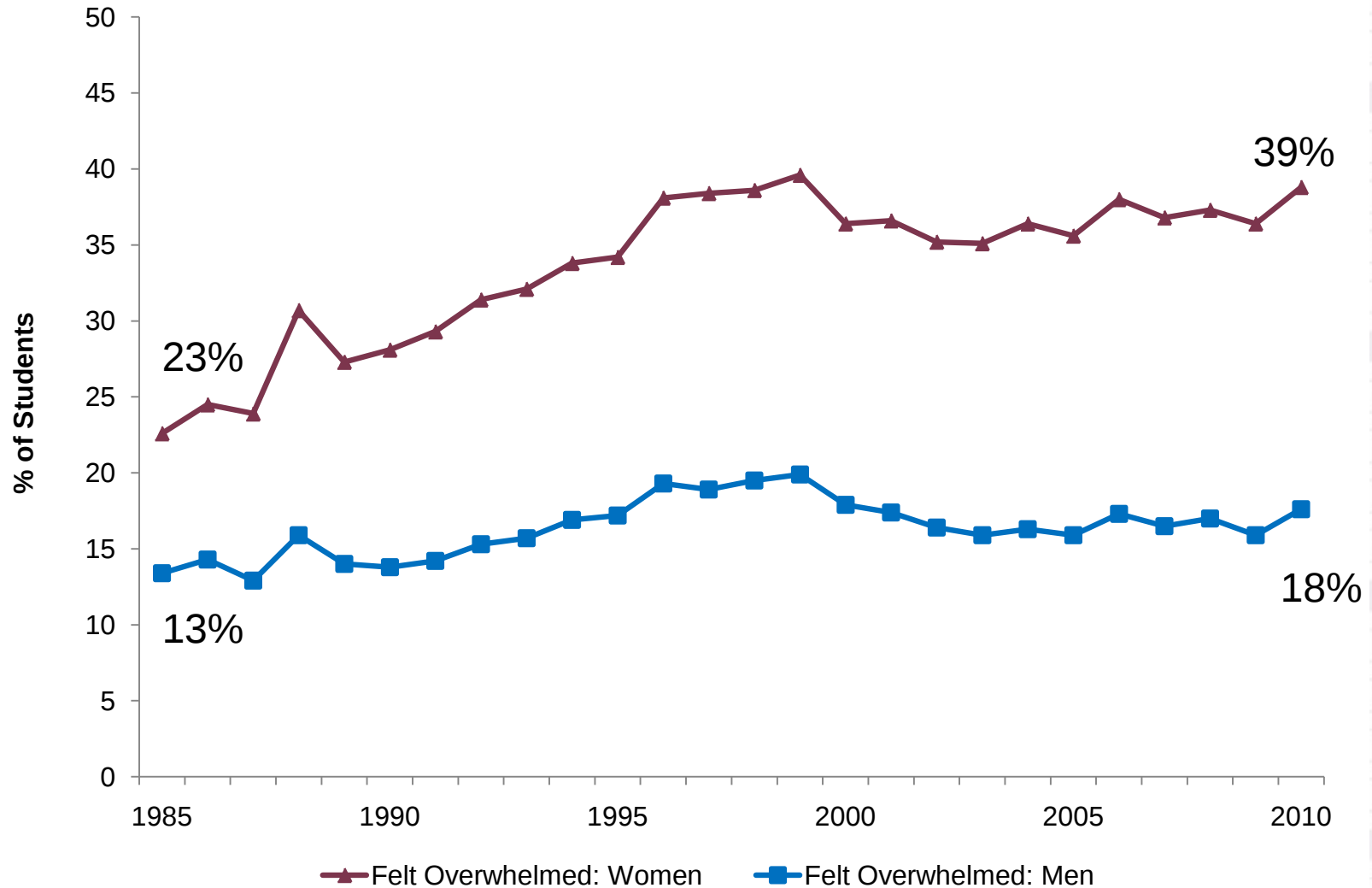
(% Indicating "Frequently" During Senior Year of High School)



More Women Feeling Overwhelmed

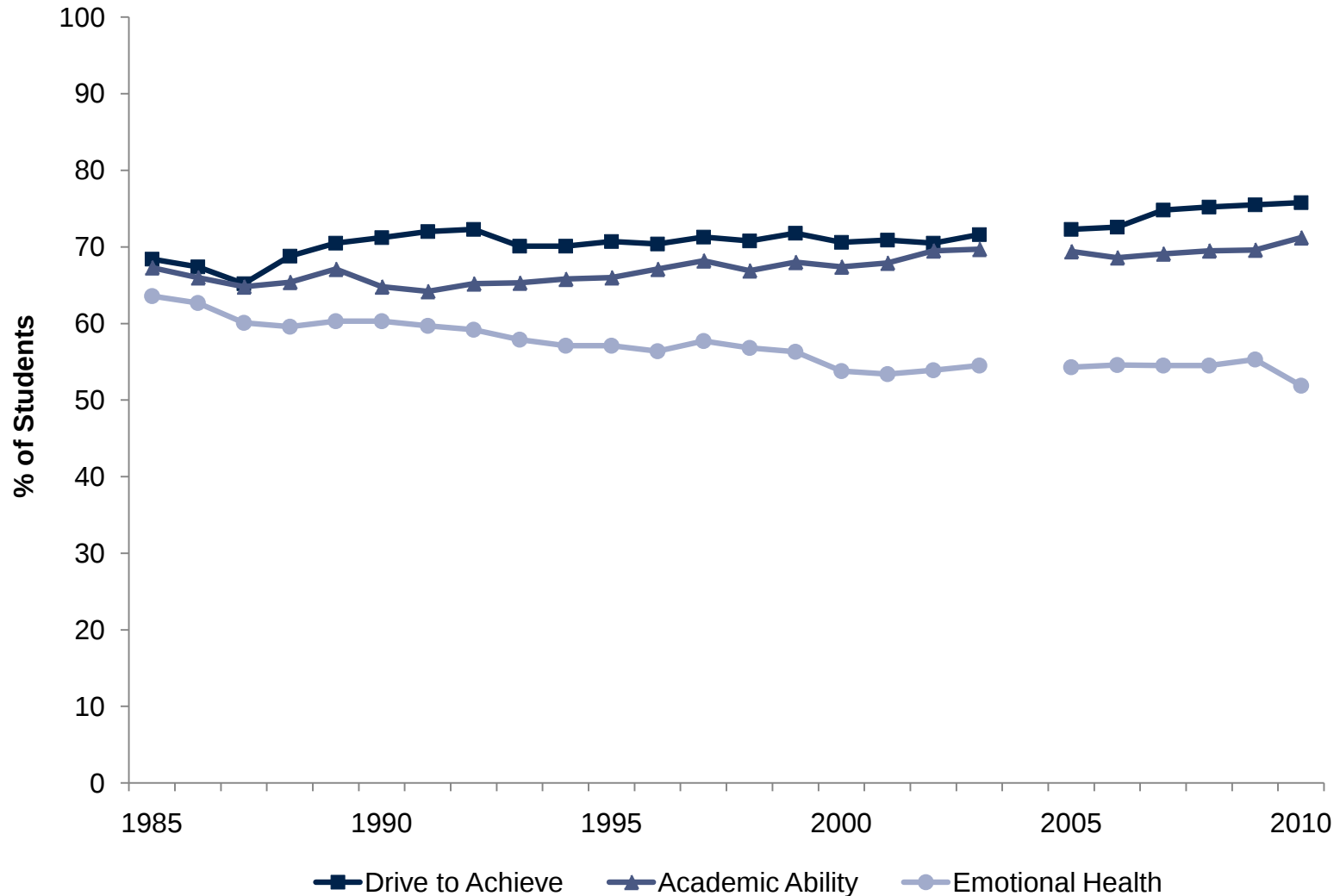
Gap Increased 100%

(% Indicating "Frequently" During Senior Year of High School, by Sex)



Trends in Student Self-Ratings

(% Indicating “Highest 10%” and “Above Average”)



Summary

- Lower levels of emotional health and higher levels of feeling overwhelmed point towards increased stress in college.
- Women more likely to be impacted, gap increasing.
- Points towards increased importance of stress management and potential strain on counseling resources.

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Gay and Lesbian Support

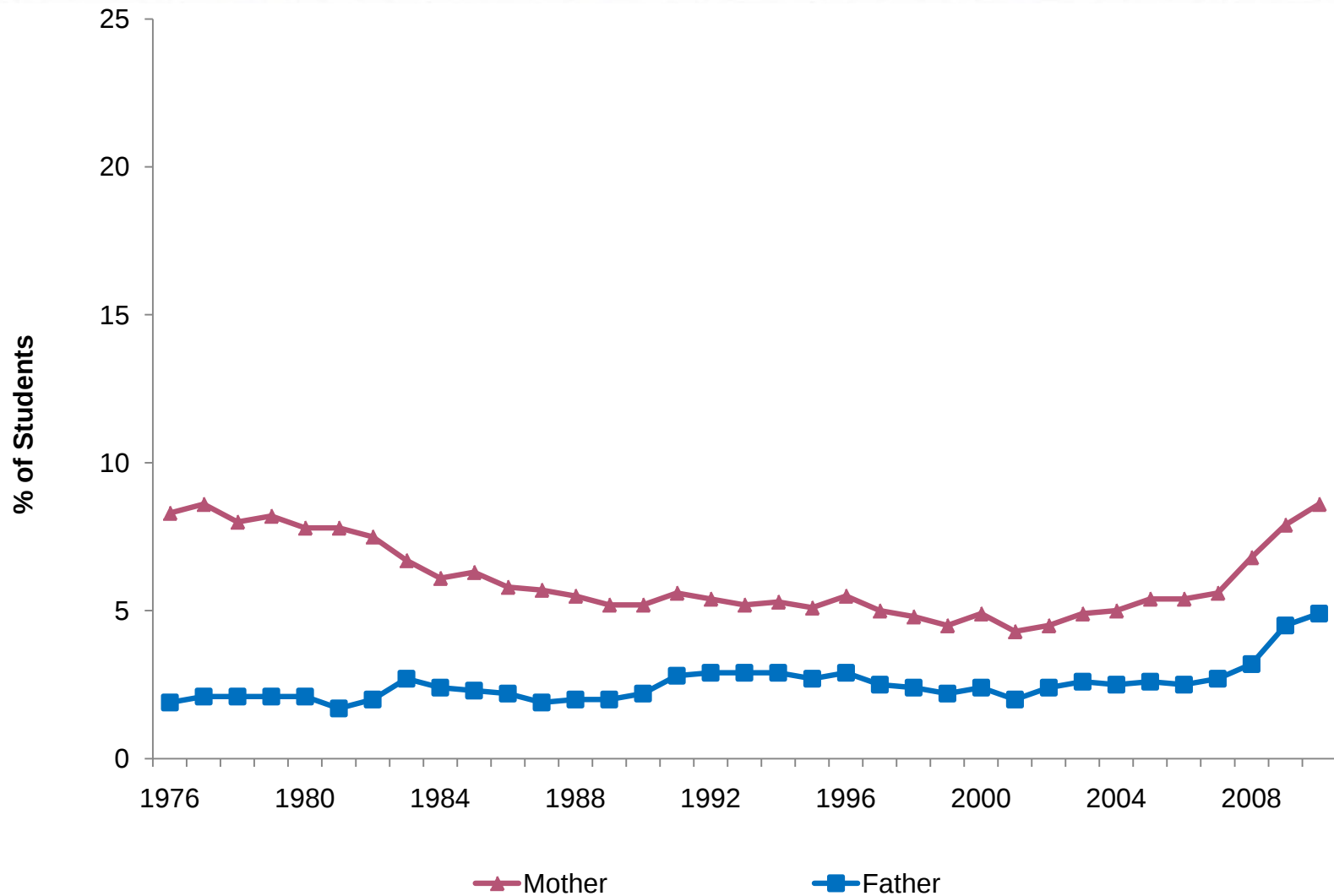
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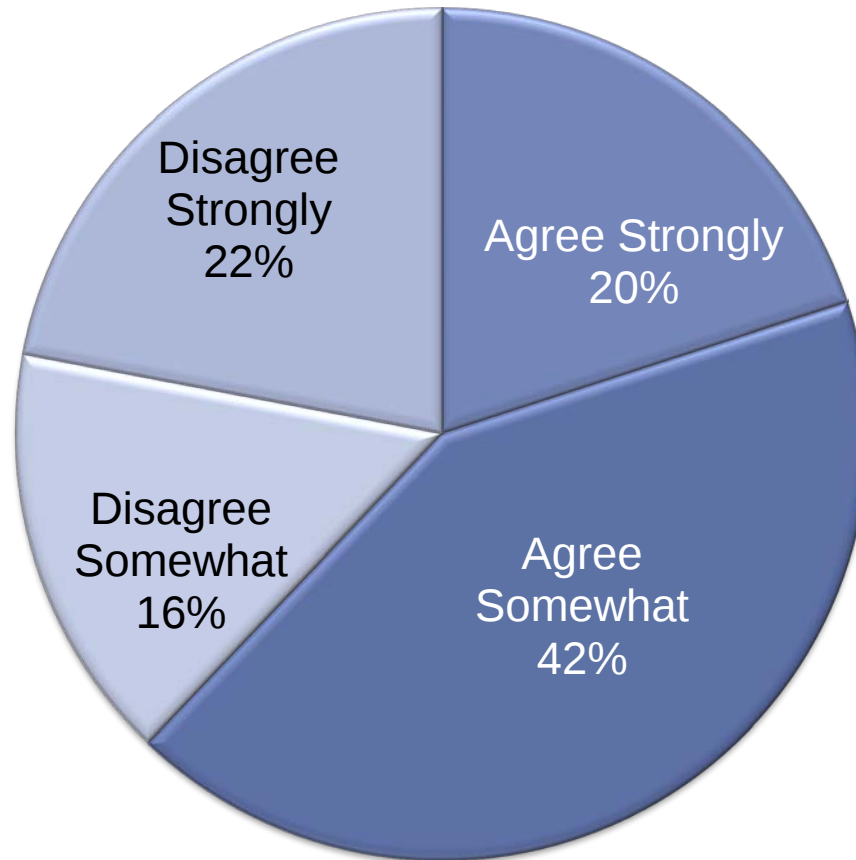
Funding College

- **53.1% using loans to attend college, similar to 2009**
 - Up from 44.8% 9 years ago
- **73.4% receiving grants, scholarships, etc.**
 - Up from 70.0% in 2009

Continued High Parental Unemployment



“The Current Economic Situation Significantly Affected My College Choice”



Summary

- Economic situation continues to impact students.
 - More receive grants this year
 - Continued high numbers taking loans
 - Continued impact on college choice

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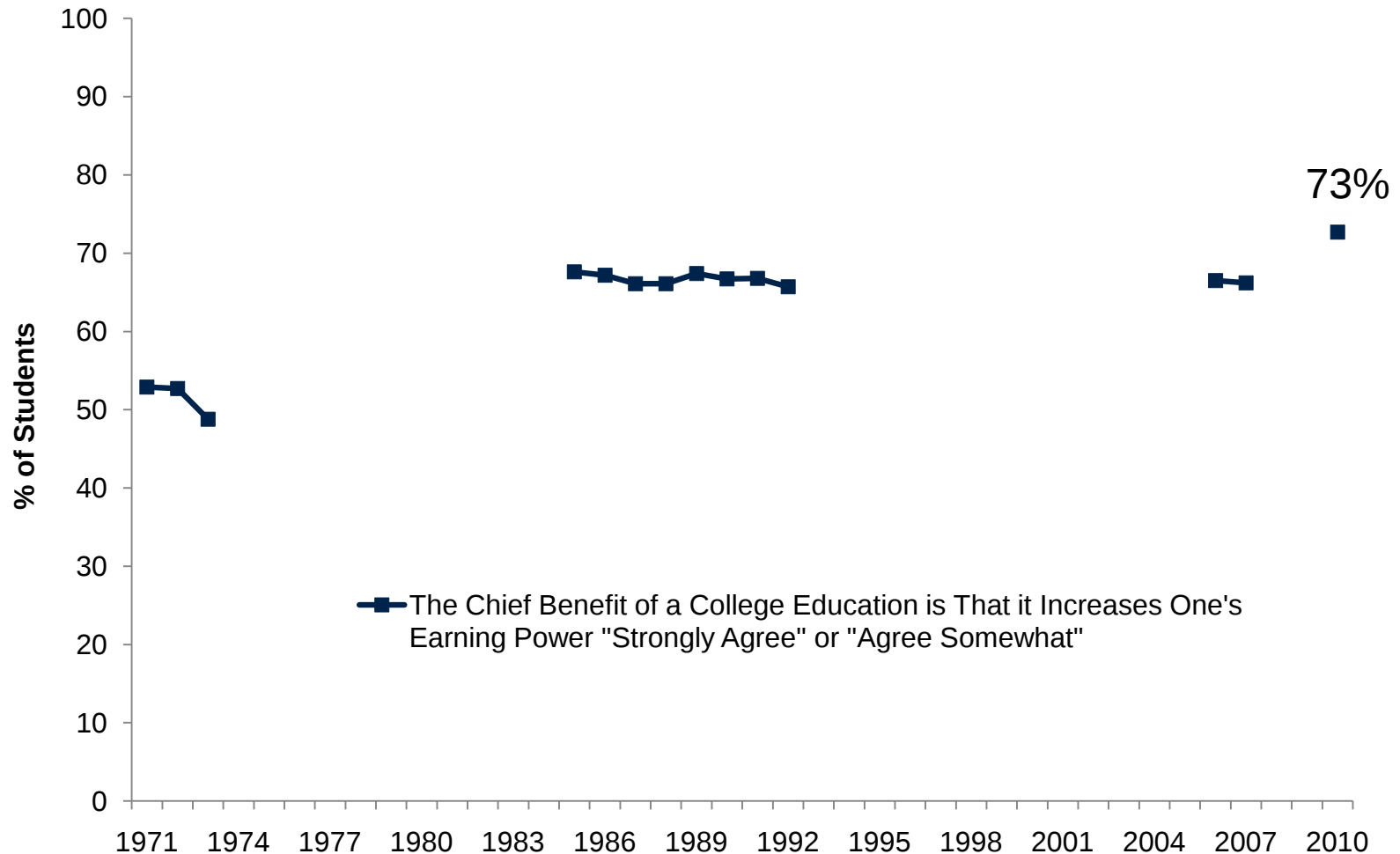
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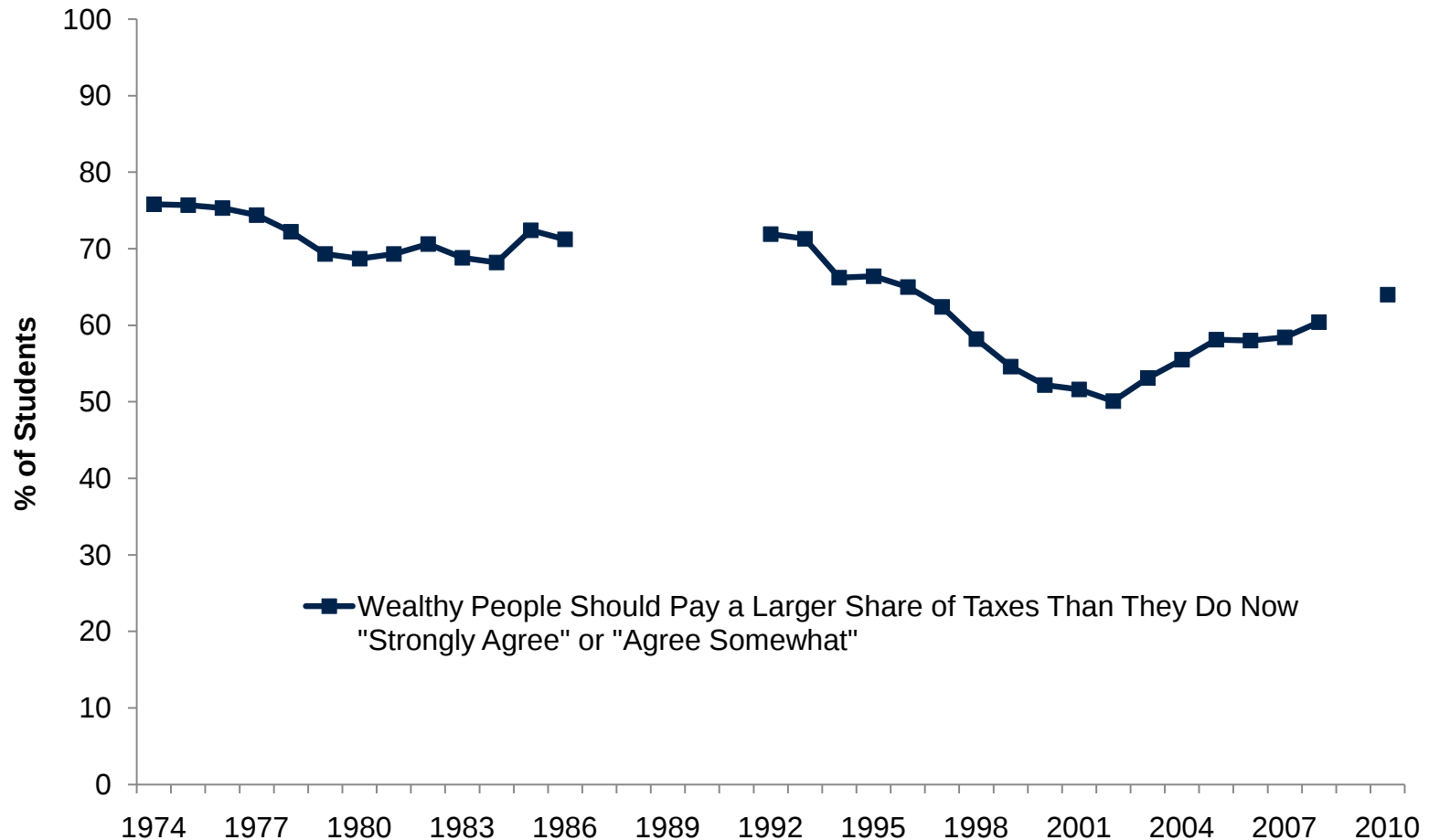
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Recent Increase in “Chief Benefit of a College Education is that it Increases Earning Power”

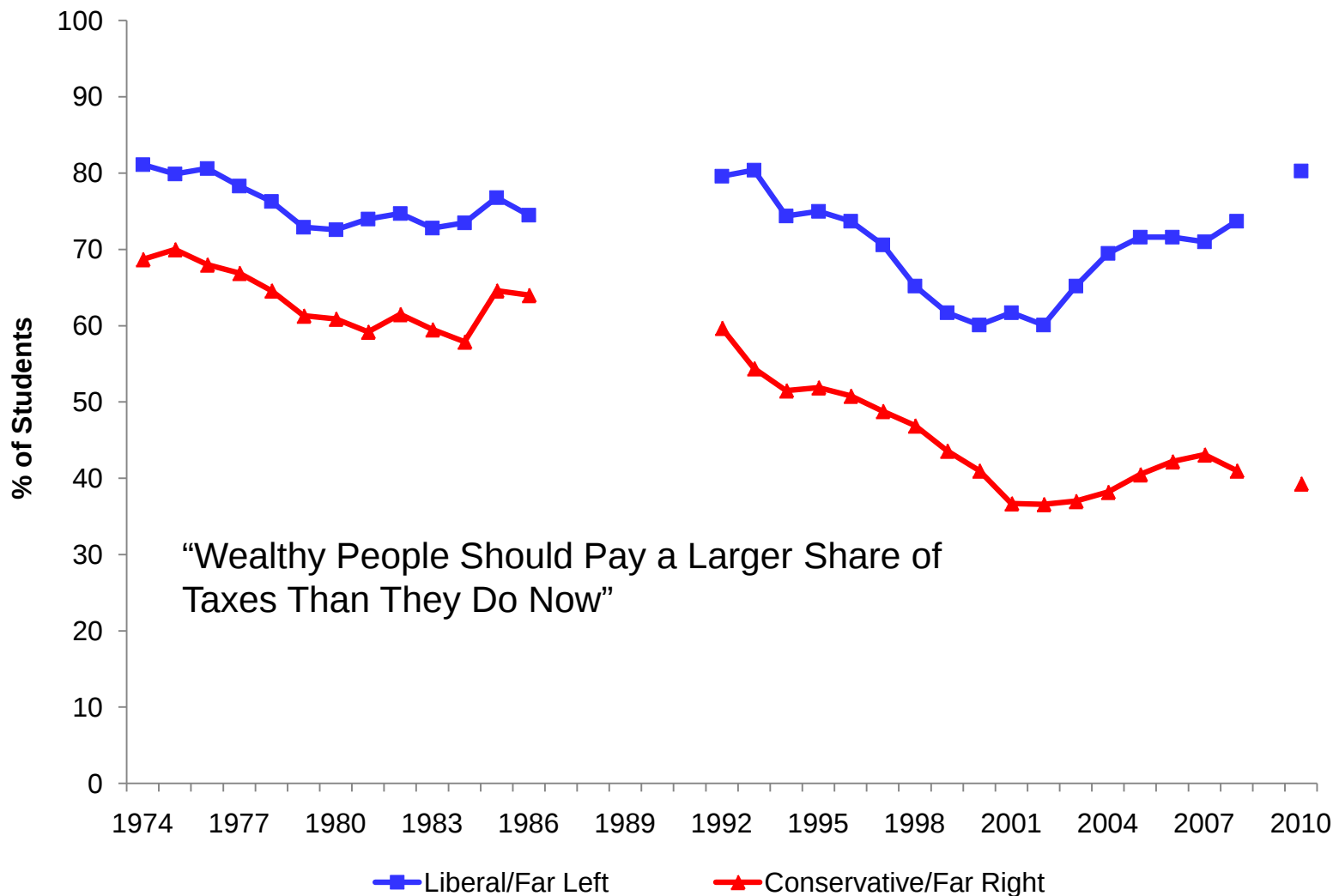


Recent Return to Higher Levels of Support for Wealthy People Paying More Taxes

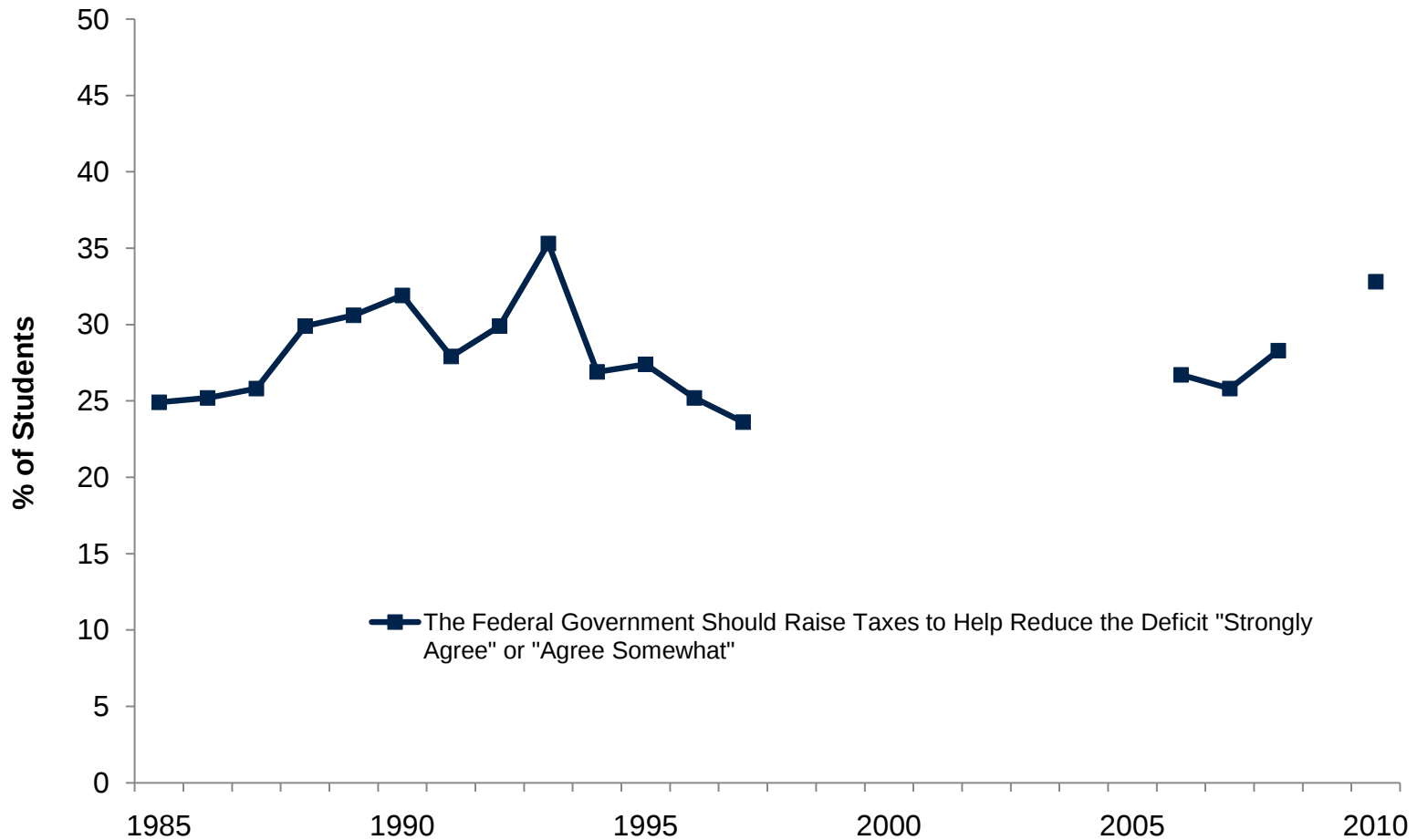


Polarization of Taxation by Political Orientation Increases

(% Indicating “Agree Strongly” and “Agree Somewhat”)

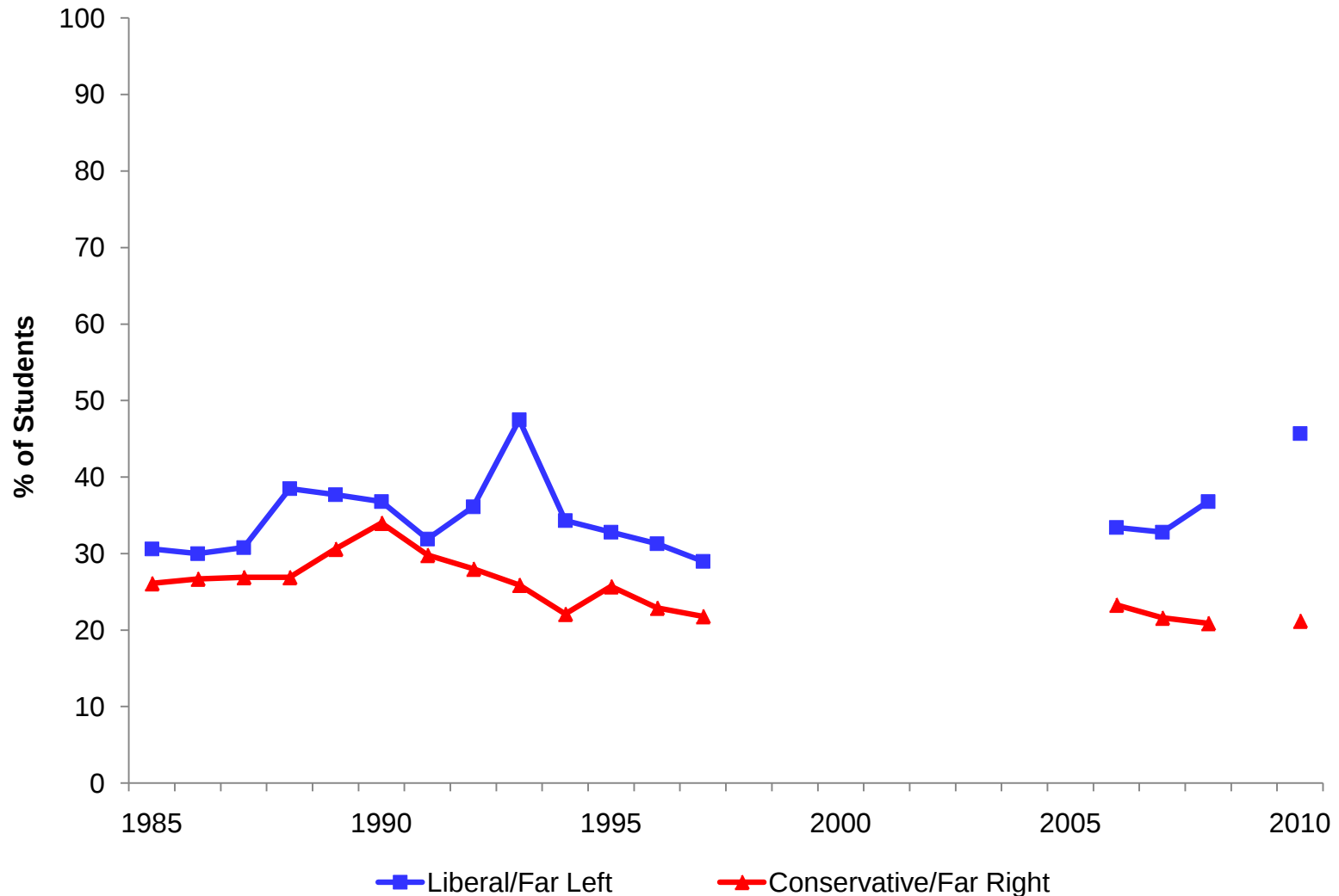


Increased Support for Raising Taxes to Reduce the Deficit

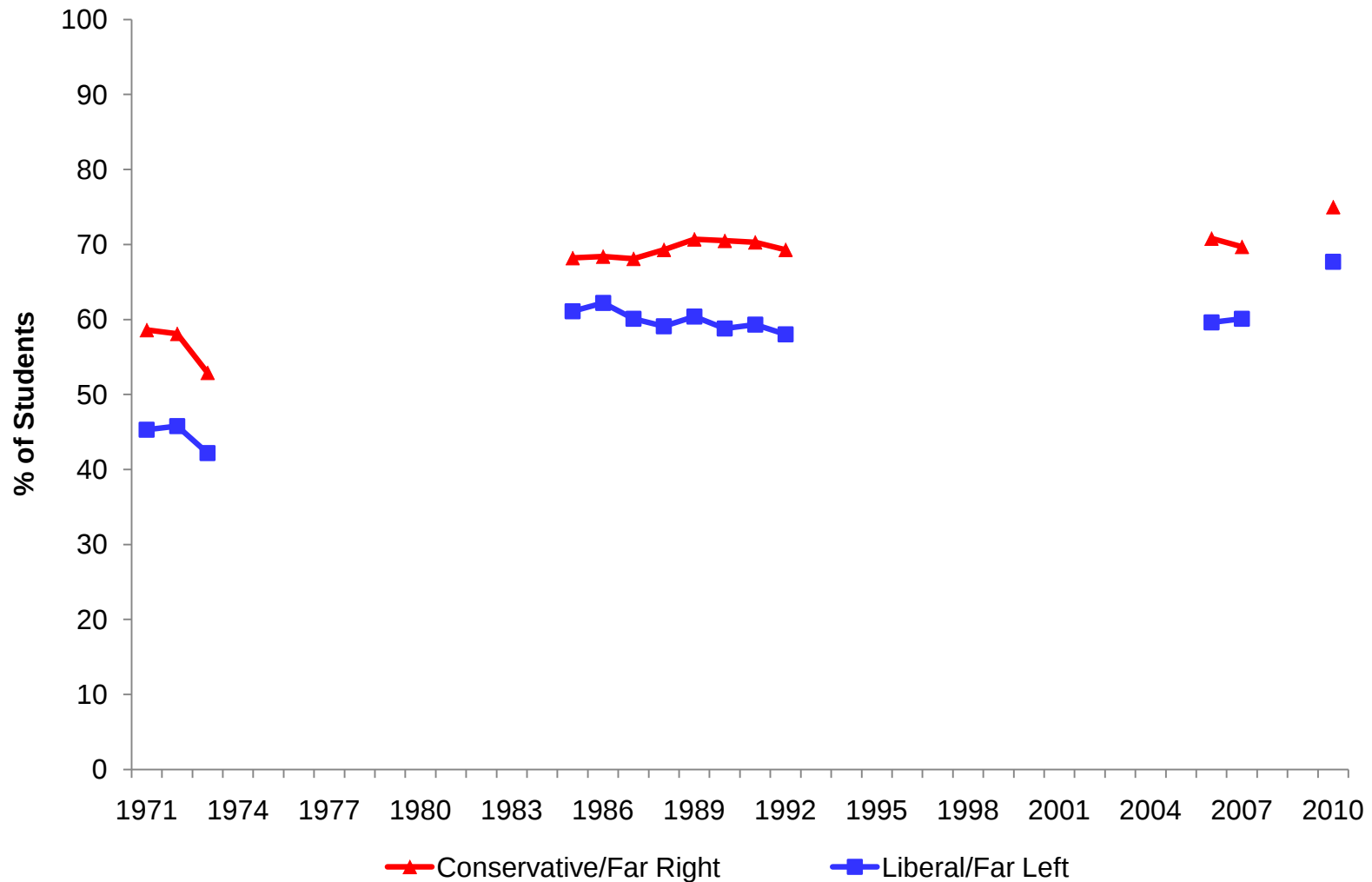


Increased Polarization By Political Orientation

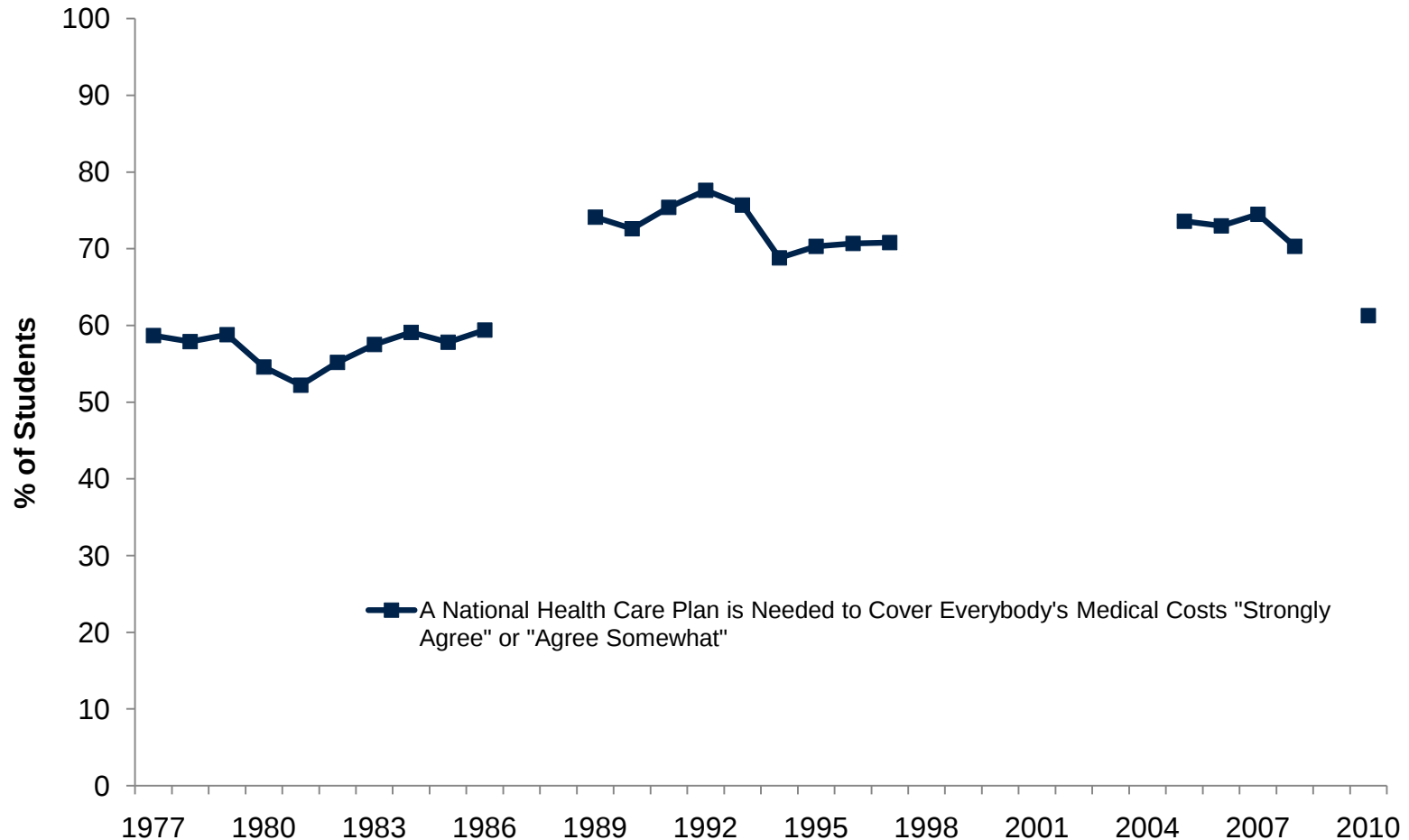
Increase Taxes to Reduce Deficit



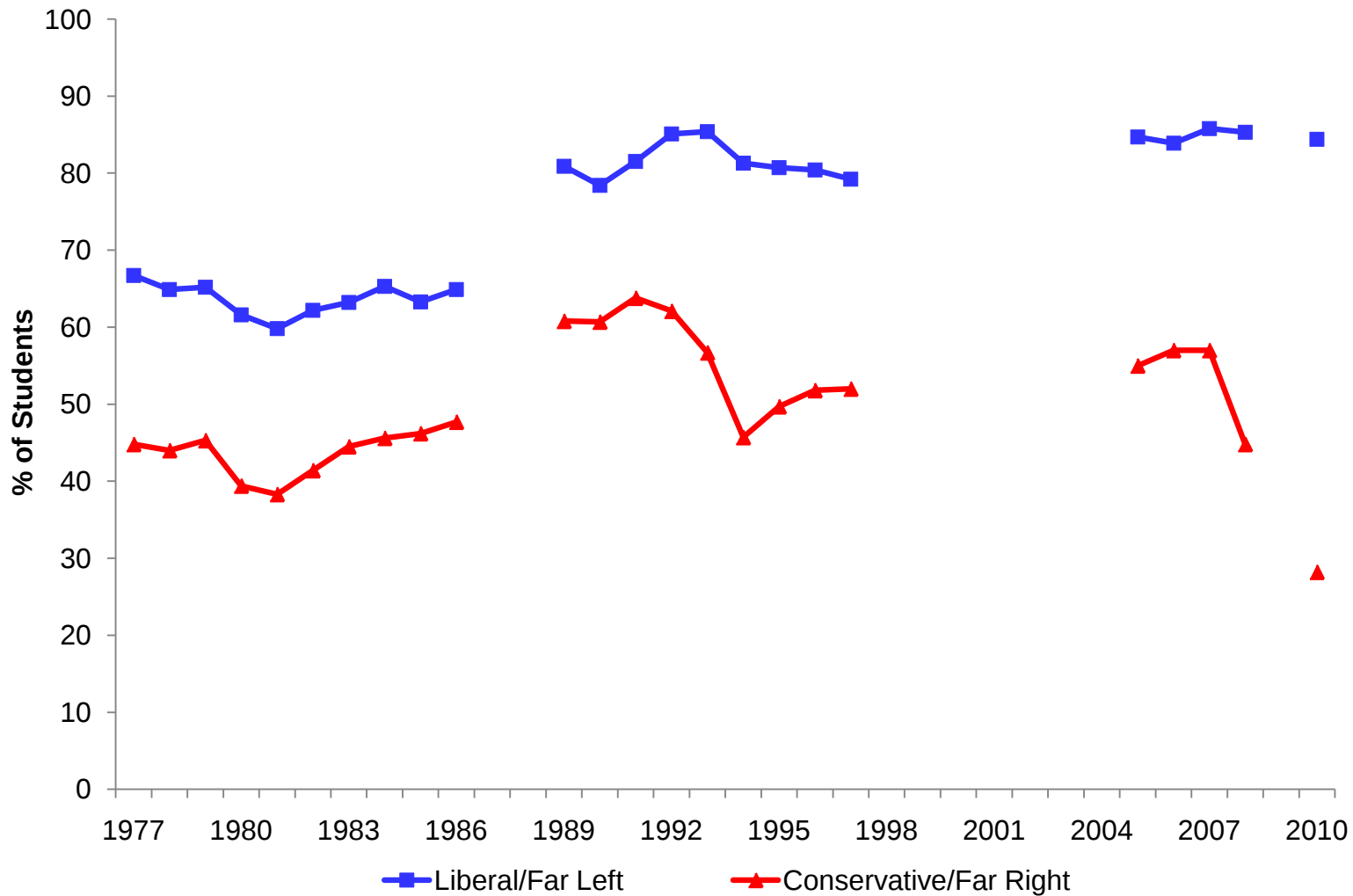
Chief Benefit is Increasing Earning Power by Political Orientation



Recent Drop in Support for National Health Care



Support for National Health Care by Political Orientation



Summary

- Impact of the economy on student political views.
- Student more than ever see college as a way to increase earning power.
- Increased polarization of the political groups points towards potential student conflict, opportunity to promote civil discourse.

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“Hidden” Disabilities

- New question in 2010:

Do you have any of the following disabilities or medical conditions?

Learning disability (dyslexia, etc.)

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Physical disability (speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.)

Chronic illness (cancer, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, etc.)

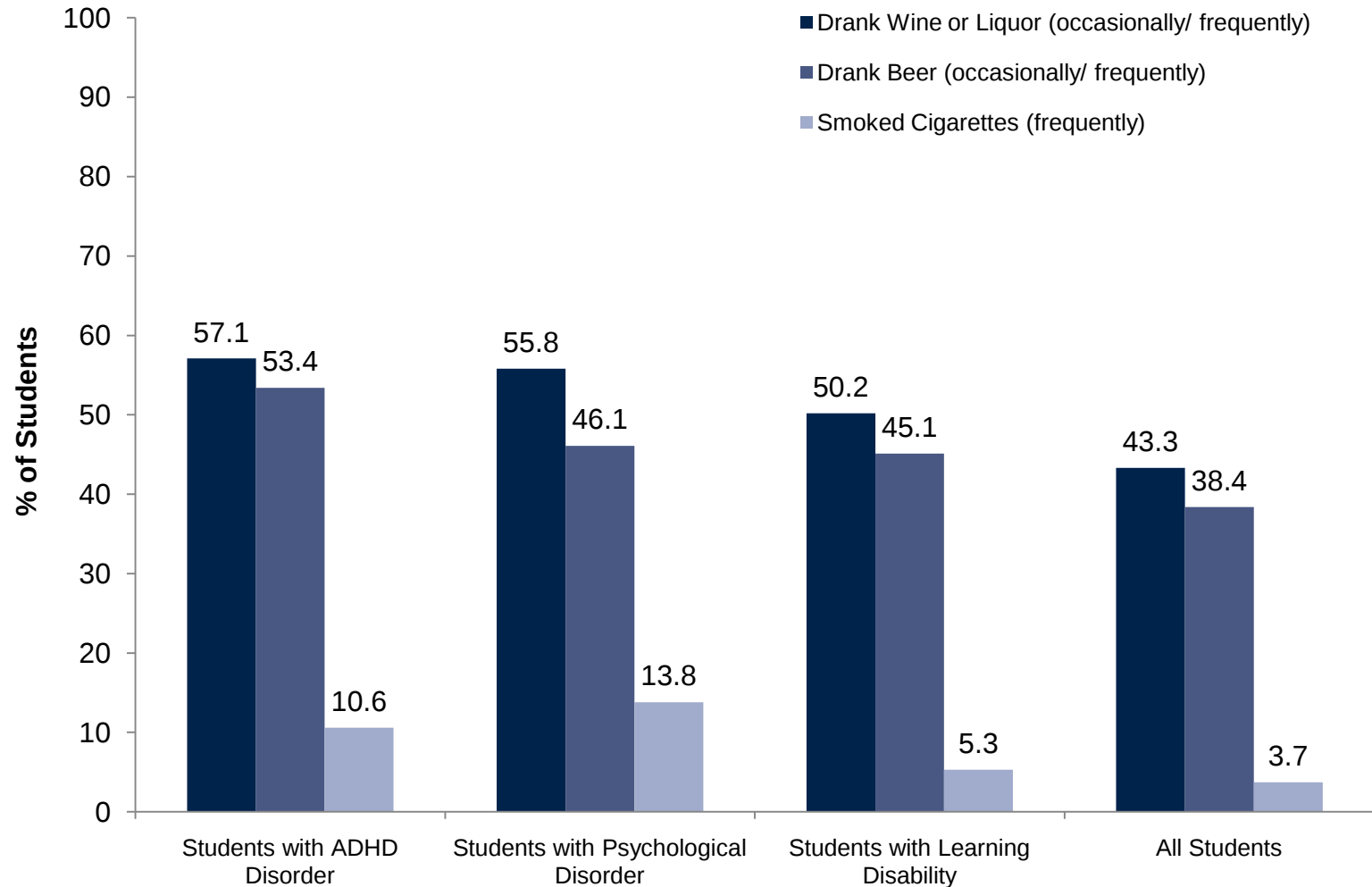
Psychological disorder (depression, etc.)

Other

Incoming Students Reporting a Disability/Medical Condition

Disability/Medical Condition	Men	Women	All Students
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (<i>ADHD</i>)	6.4	3.8	5.0
Psychological disorder (<i>depression, etc.</i>)	2.6	4.9	3.8
Learning disability (<i>dyslexia, etc.</i>)	3.1	2.7	2.9
Physical disability (<i>speech, sight, mobility, hearing, etc.</i>)	2.7	2.7	2.7
Chronic illness (<i>cancer, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, etc.</i>)	1.3	2.1	1.8
Other	2.8	3.6	3.3
One reported disability/medical condition	11.9	11.9	11.9
2+ reported disabilities/medical conditions	2.5	2.9	2.7

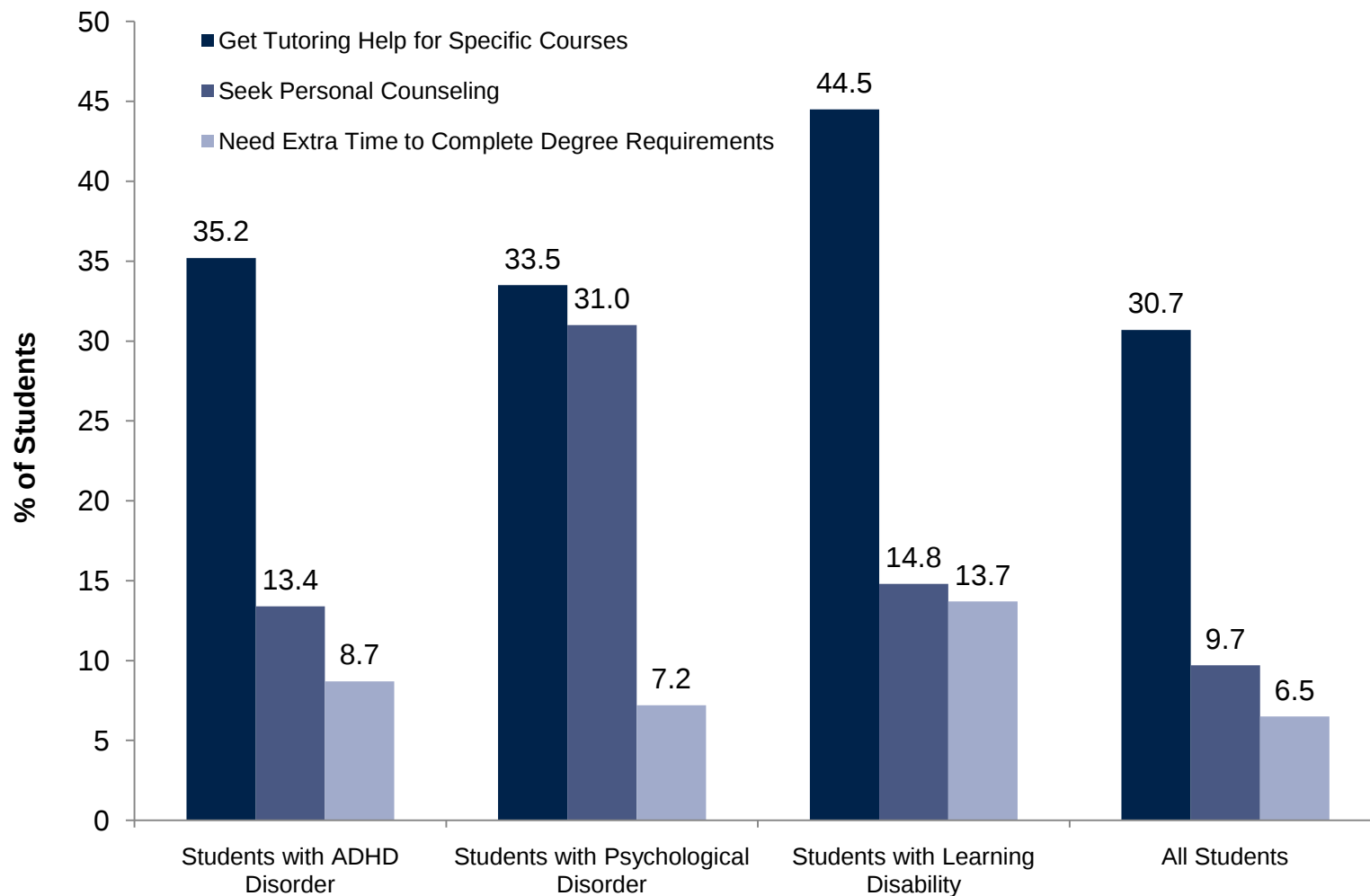
Students with “Hidden” Disabilities Exhibit Greater Level of Risk Behaviors as High School Seniors



Comparative Characteristics

	Students with ADHD Disorder	Students with Psychological Disorder	Students with Learning Disability	All Students
Habits of Mind (high group)	29.5	33.3	27.7	25.8
Academic Self-Concept (high group)	16.7	20.6	12.4	22.9
Social Self-Concept (high group)	28.6	17.2	23.3	27.2
B+ or Better High School GPA	49.2	64.2	53.5	70.5

Greater Expected Use of Support Services



Summary

- Students reporting single and multiple disabilities.
- Greater demands for services and resources not only for immediate effects of disability but also greater likelihood of alcohol and tobacco use.

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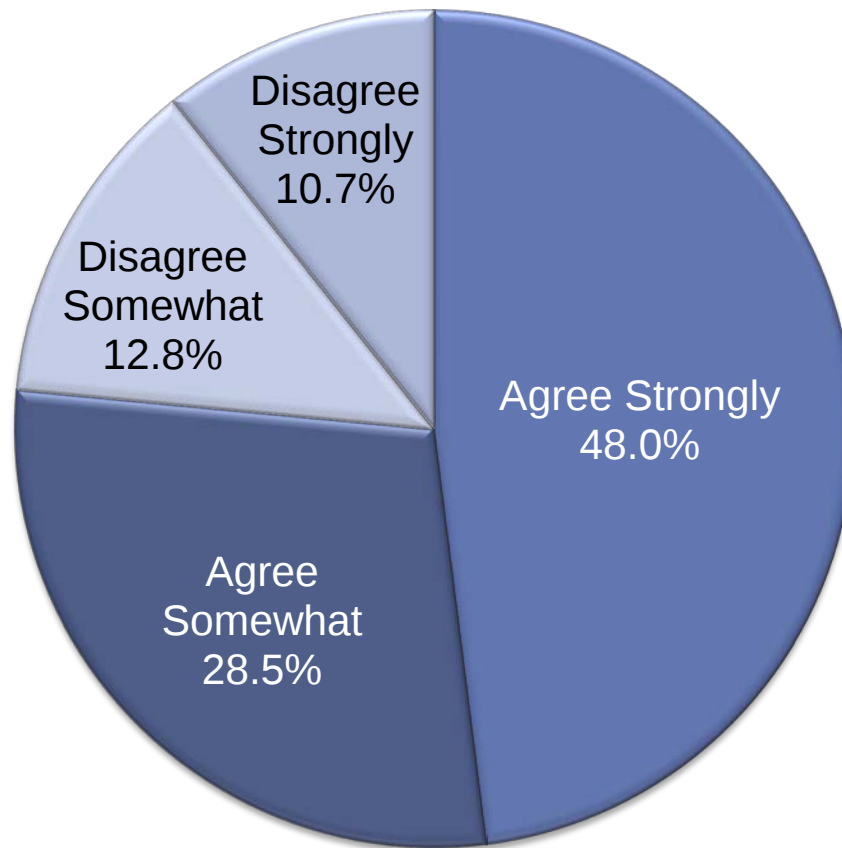
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Support for Gays and Lesbians

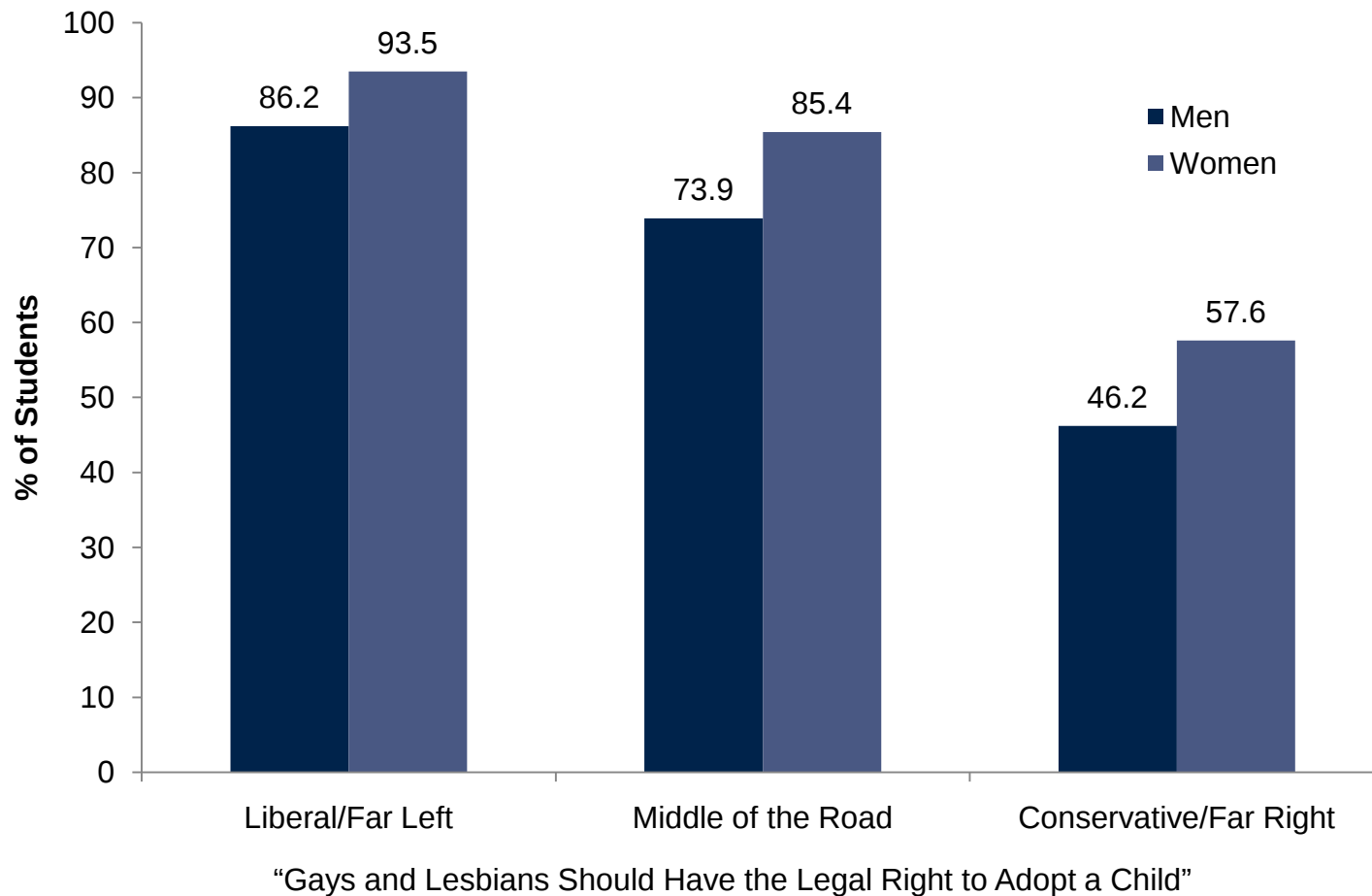
- New question in 2010
 - “Gays and Lesbians should have the legal right to adopt a child”
 - Agree Strongly
 - Agree Somewhat
 - Disagree Somewhat
 - Disagree Strongly

“Gays and Lesbians Should Have the Legal Right to Adopt a Child”



Over Half of Conservative Students Support the Legal Right of Gays and Lesbians to Adopt

(% Indicating "Agree Strongly" or "Agree Somewhat")



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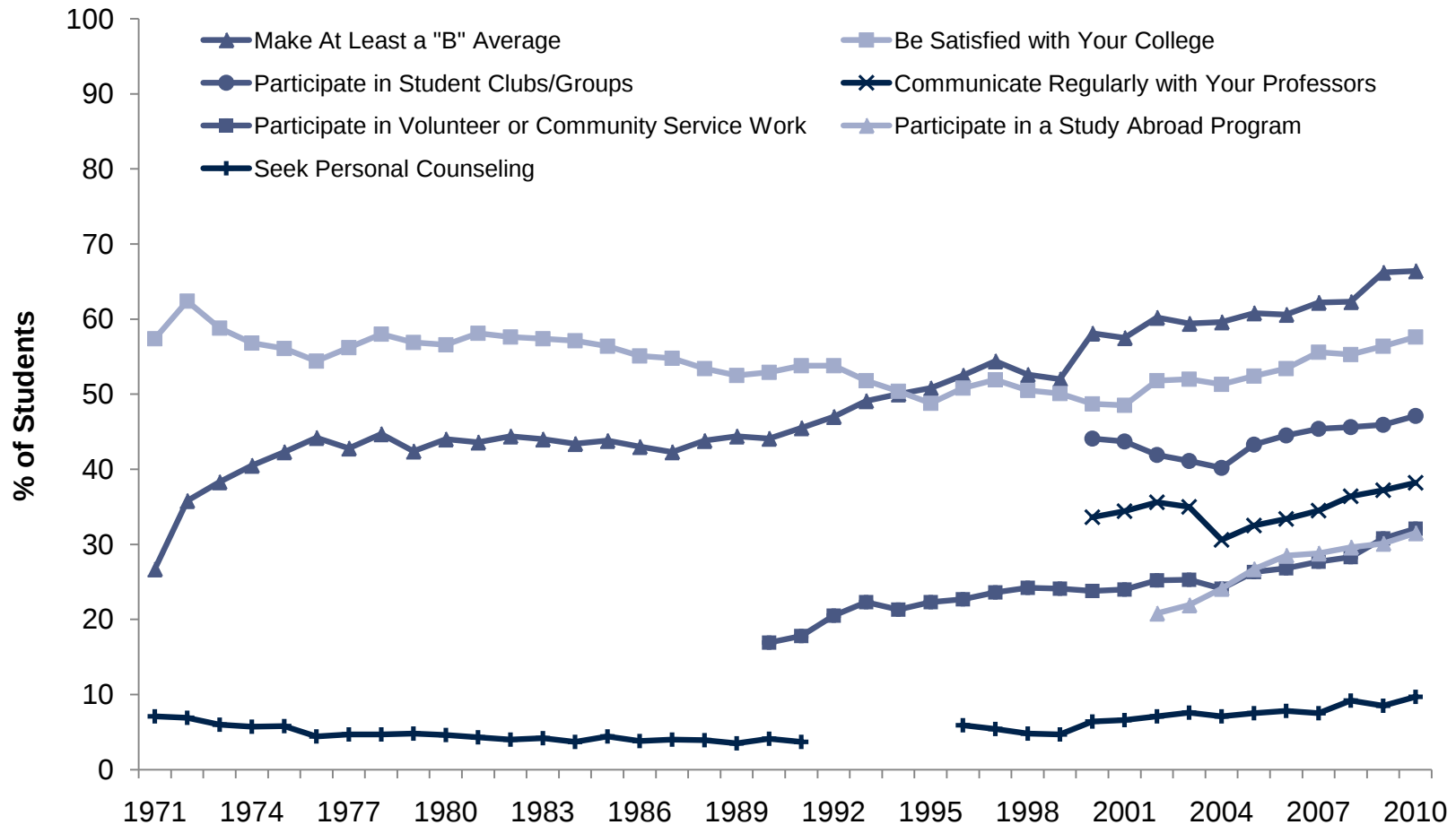
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Trends in Expectations for College

(% Indicating "Highest 10%" and "Above Average")



Summary

- Higher levels of feeling overwhelmed before coming to college and lower emotional health indicate potential for higher stress in college.
- Financial situation continues to impact student perceptions, affect social and political views.
- Political orientation polarizes students.
- Students entering college with multiple disabilities and expectations to use services.
- Good levels of support for gay and lesbian rights.
- Great expectations of the college experience

For More Information

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