



Higher Education Research Institute

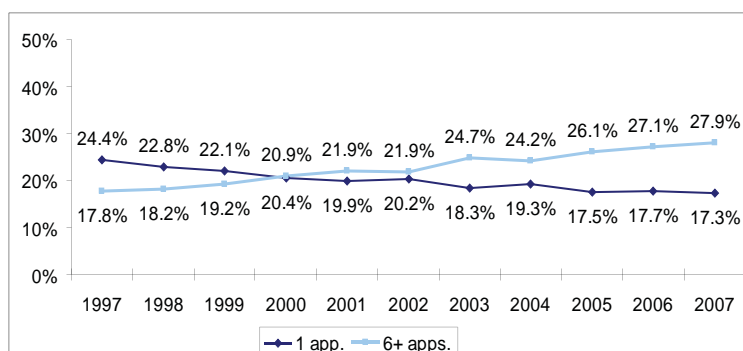


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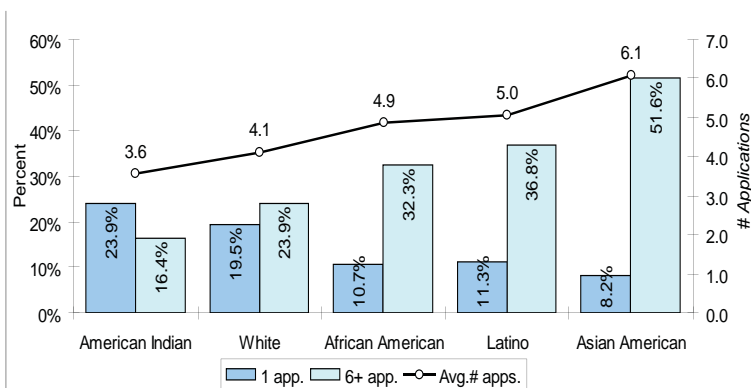
HERI Research Brief

College Applications

In the last decade, the percentage of incoming college freshmen who applied to six or more schools increased by more than fifty percent, moving up from 17.8 percent in 1997 to 27.9 percent in 2007. There was a corresponding decrease in the percentage of students applying to only one college, down to 17.3 percent in 2007. The median number of applications per student continues to be four.



The above numbers differ widely by racial and ethnic groups. Asian American students were more likely than any other students to be applying to large numbers of schools, as 51.6 percent applied to six or more schools in 2007. This was followed by Latino students at 36.8 percent and African-American students at 32.3 percent. White students were less than half as likely to apply to 6 or more schools, at 23.9 percent. American Indian students were the least likely to apply to six schools, at 16.4 percent. They were also the most likely students to only apply to one school, at 23.9 percent. This is the only racial/ethnic group in the United States that had more students applying to only one college than to six or more.



The CIRP Freshman Survey

The CIRP Freshman Survey has been conducted annually since 1966. The data in this CIRP trends report come from responses of over 13 million students at over 1,900 of the nation's baccalaureate colleges and universities over the last forty years. Results of the CIRP Freshman Survey provide a comprehensive portrait of the changing character of entering students and American society at large. Information on the CIRP Freshman Survey, research and publications based on these data, and other research projects conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute can be found on the HERI website (www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/heri.html) or via email to heri@ucla.edu.

Additional reports for campuses can be requested by contacting the HERI Data Services at heridata@ucla.edu

If you would like to discuss or comment on this research brief, please visit: www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/heridisc/viewforum.php?f=18

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program

CIRP is a national longitudinal study of the American higher education system. It is regarded as the most comprehensive source of information on college students. Established in 1966 at the American Council on Education, the CIRP is the nation's largest and oldest empirical study of higher education, involving data on some 1,900 institutions and over 13 million college students. The Higher Education Research Institute has administered the CIRP since 1973. The CIRP longitudinal program consists of the Freshman Survey, Your First College Year Survey, the College Senior Survey, and the triennial Faculty Survey.

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