

# The Ongoing Quest for Quality Access in US Tertiary Education: Dual Enrollment and Developmental Education

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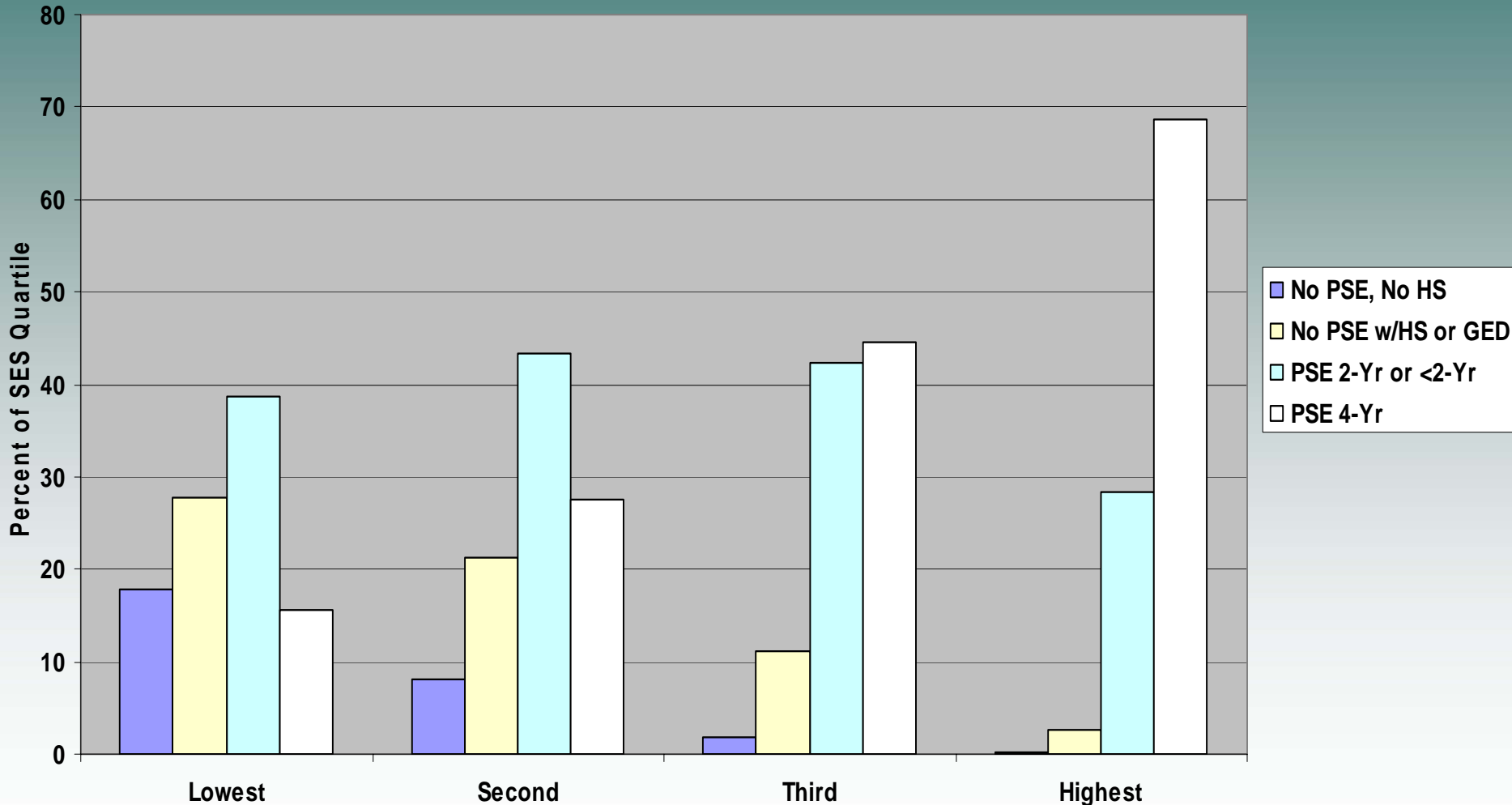
# Outline

- Presumed universal access to higher ed assuming broad skills
- Shift to emphasis on outcomes
- Many HE entrants not prepared
- Attempted solutions—dev ed and dual enrollment
- How effective?
- Directions for reform

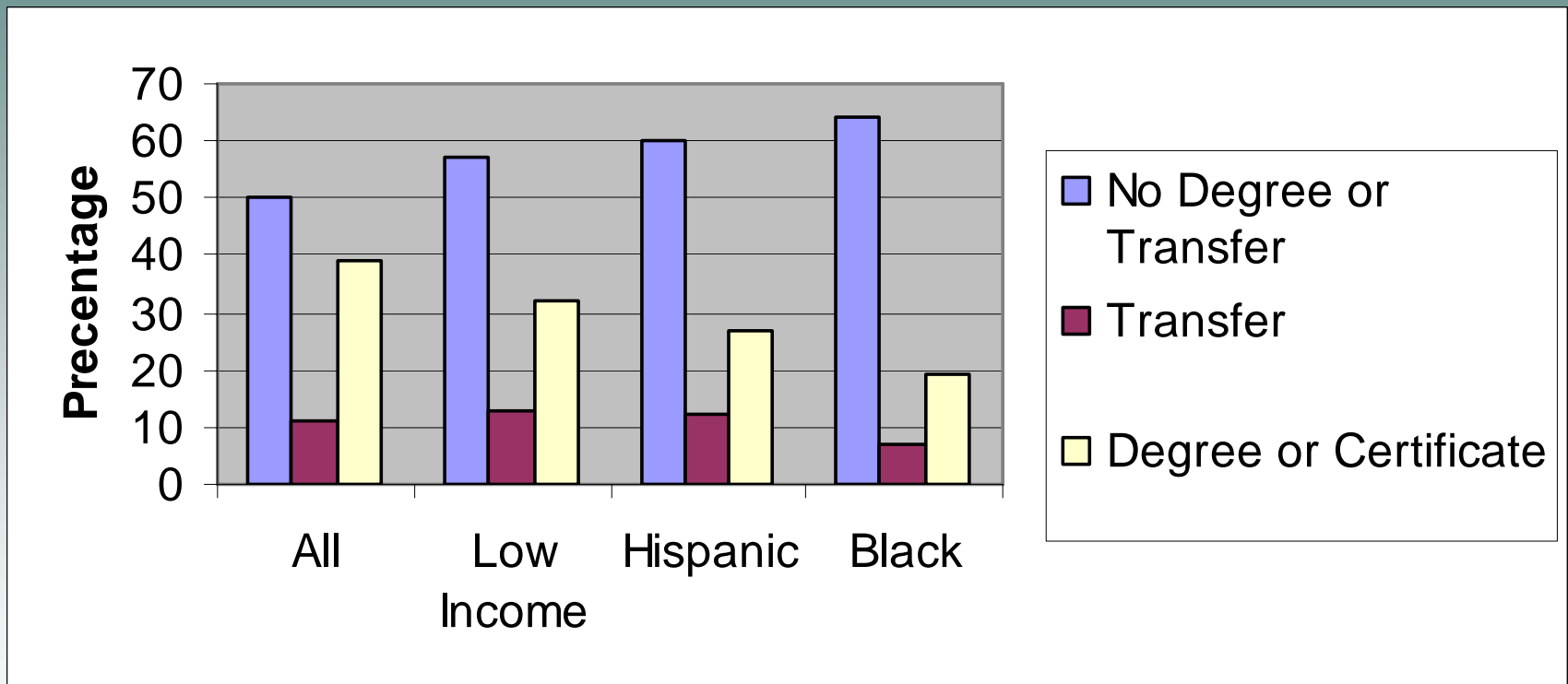
# Access to Higher Education

- All HS grads (and even some others) now expected to be able to attend college
  - About ½ BA granting, ½ community college or less than 2 year colleges
- Highly unequal by social class

# High School Completion and Initial Postsecondary Education by SES Quartile Eighth Graders in 1988



# CC First PSE Students in Various Groups Percent Distribution by Highest Outcome in All PSE Within Eight Years (NELS)



Source: NELS88

# Students Expected to Be Proficient in Broad Skills

- Tested in mathematics, reading, writing
  - No consensus about what it means to be “college ready”
- Expected to enroll in appropriate remedial courses before enrolling in “college level” (credit bearing) courses
- Math is particularly problematic
- Some students enroll in several levels of developmental education

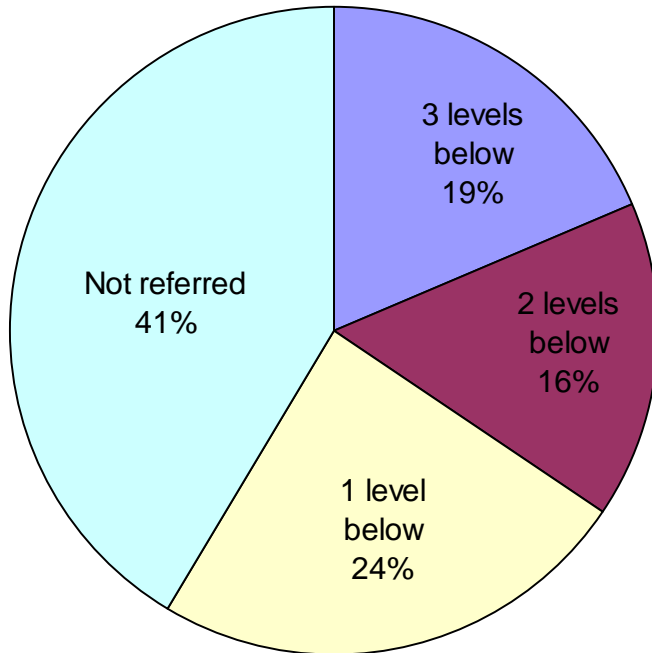
# Incidence of Remediation

- Community Colleges
  - At least 60 percent
- Non-selective Four Year Colleges and Universities
  - About 30 percent
- Little remediation at highly selective universities
- Incidence underestimates the number of students with weak academic skills

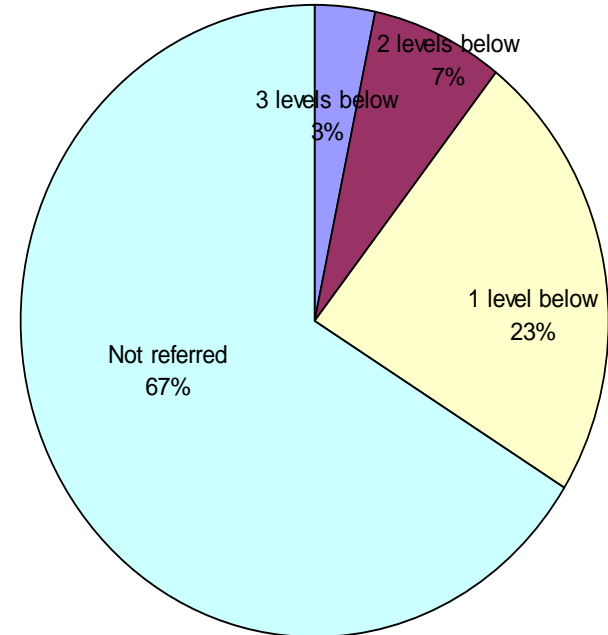
# Referrals to Levels of Dev. Ed.

(Achieving the Dream)

Math - Full Sample



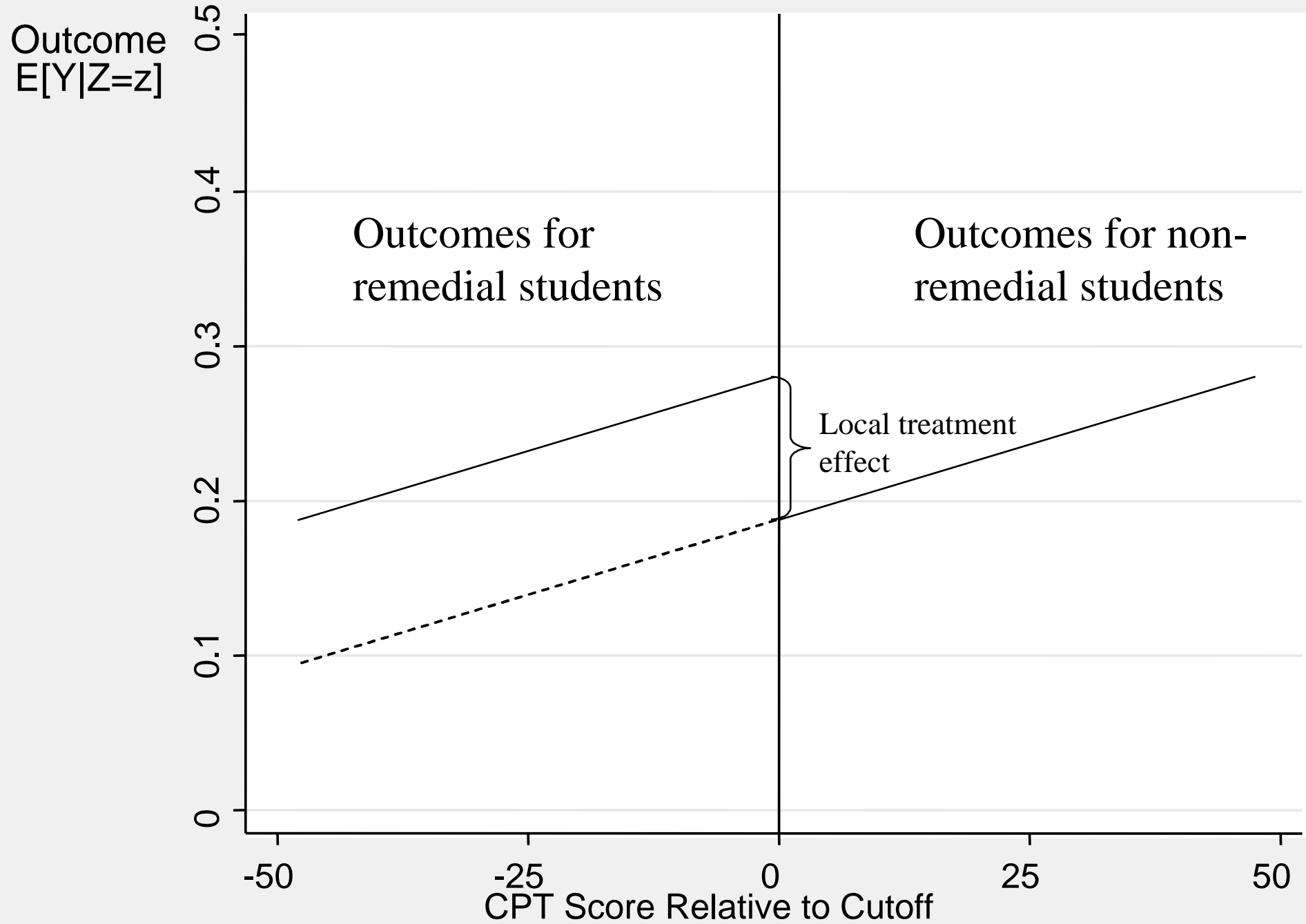
Reading - Full Sample



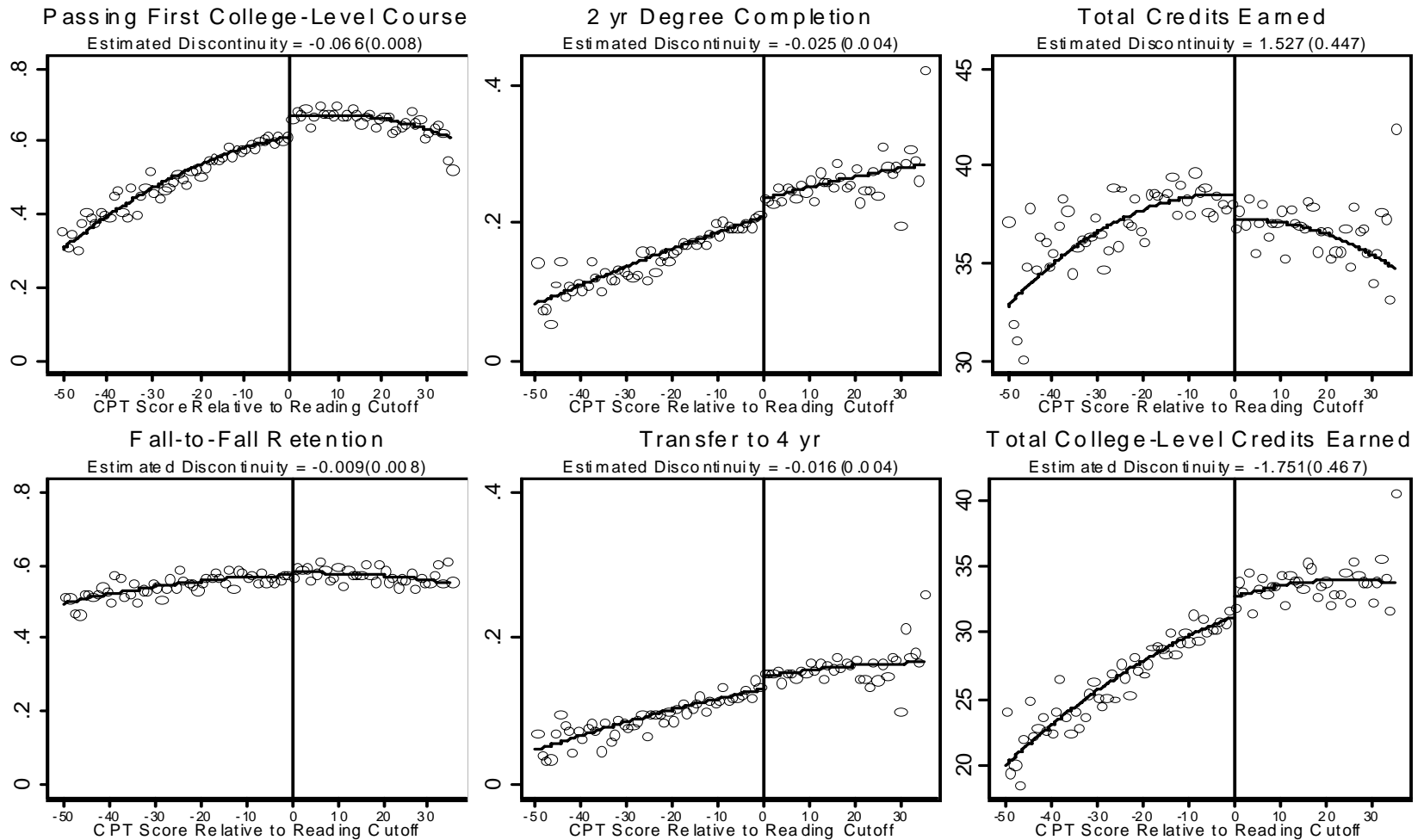


# Research on Developmental Education

- Surprisingly little rigorous research on the effects of developmental education
- What research there is suggests that remediation is not very effective—many students would not do any worse if they went directly into college level courses
- Even less research on the best way to carry out remediation



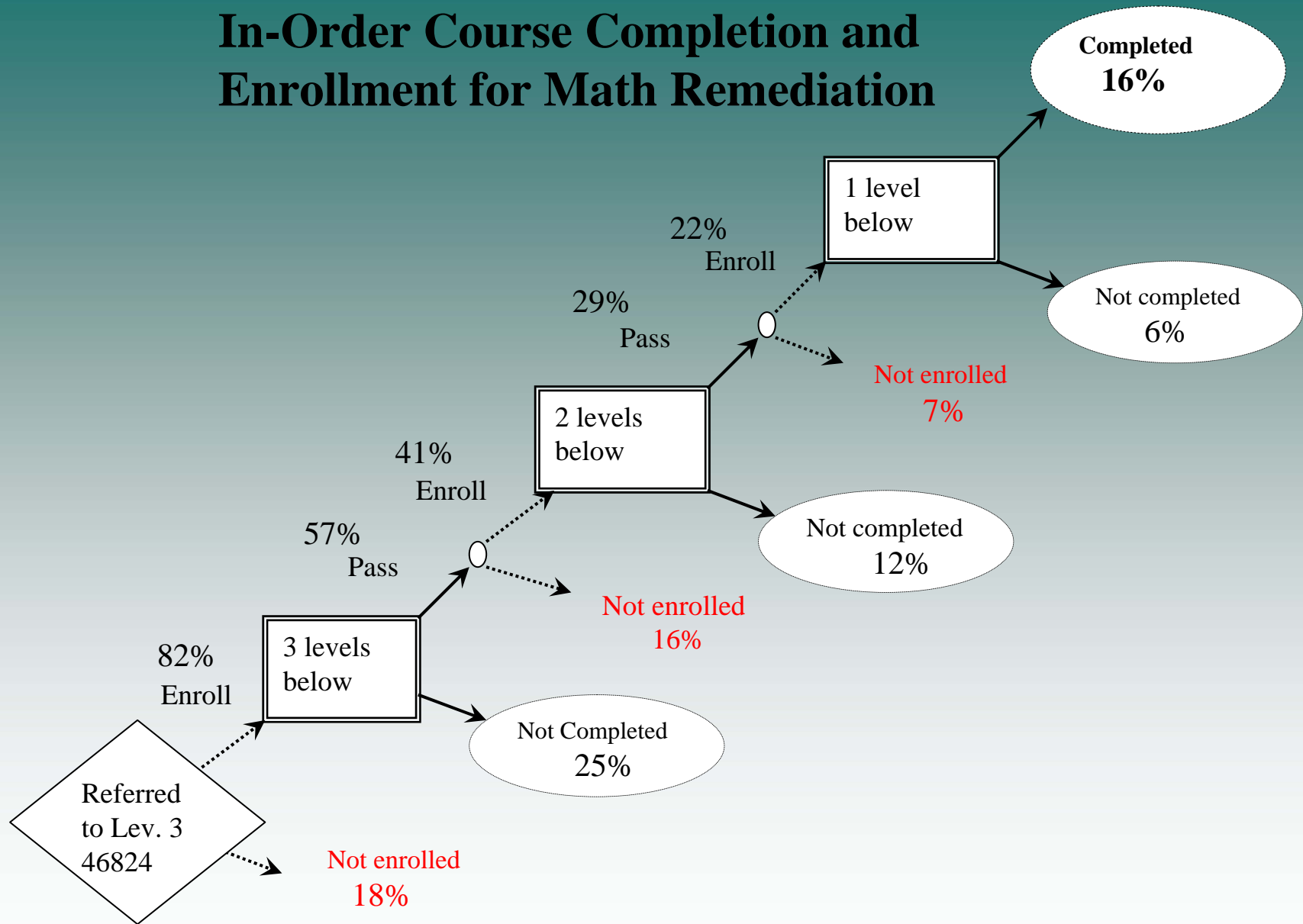
# Figure 4: Educational Outcome by Reading CPT Score and Estimated Discontinuity



# Problems with Dev. Ed.

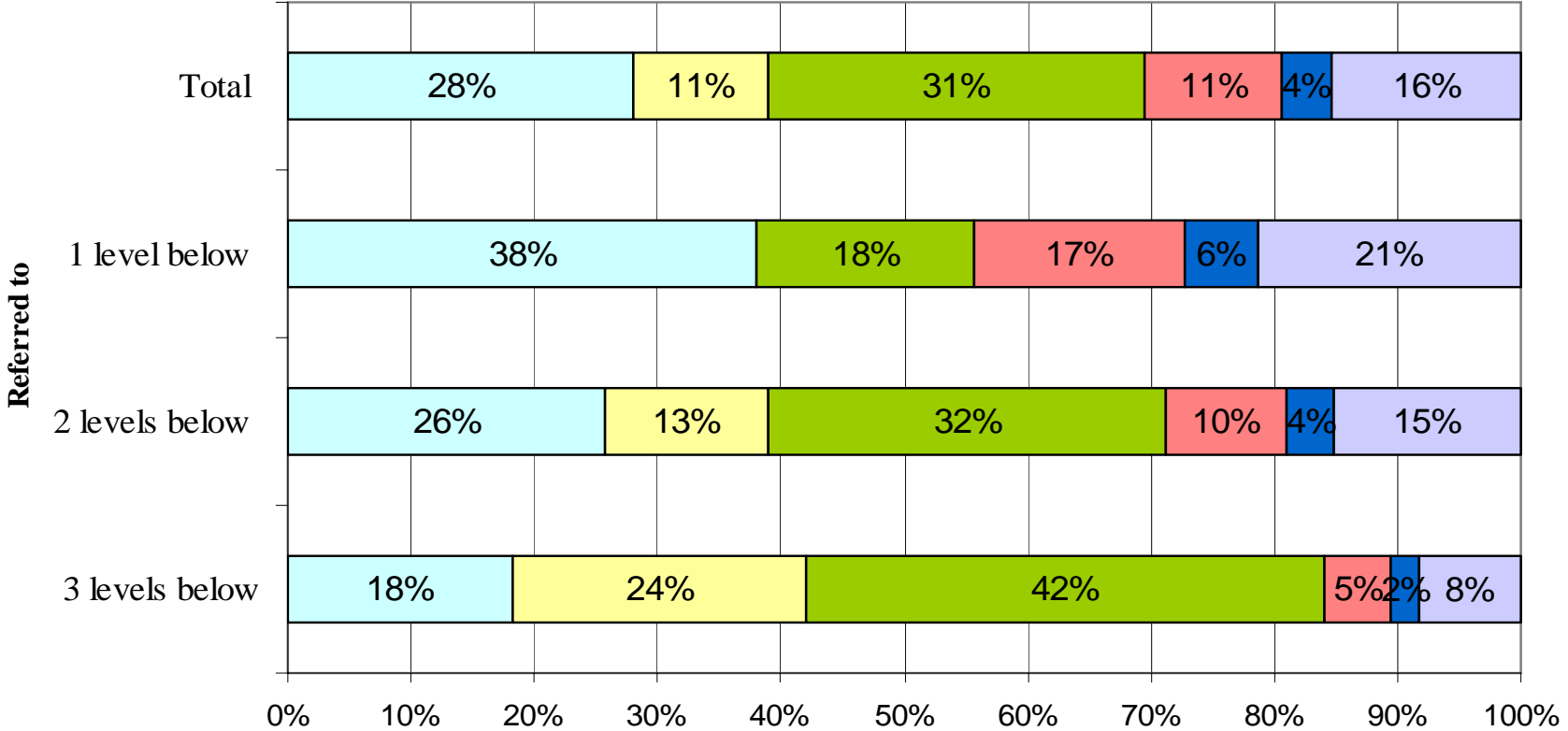
- Many students surprised and discouraged
- Students spend time and money without making any progress towards degrees
- Often taught by part-time teachers
- Many students avoid remediation
- There is tremendous attrition

# In-Order Course Completion and Enrollment for Math Remediation



# Student Progression for Students Referred to Developmental Math

## Math - Full Sample



■ Never enrolled 
 ■ Not re-enrolled 
 ■ Not completed dev 
 ■ GK Not enrolled 
 ■ GK Not passed 
 ■ GK Passed

# Summary: Progression (Three years)

- Only about 1/3 of referred students complete their math sequence (44% for reading)
- Less than 1/5 complete a college-level math course (24% for reading)
- About 1/3 of referred students never enroll in dev. ed.
- Exit between courses is a serious problem for students referred to multiple levels of dev. ed.

# Solutions

- Improve high schools
- Acclimate students to college while still in HS by encouraging them to enroll in college courses (Dual Enrollment)
- Improve delivery of remediation.



# Dual Enrollment

- Allows high school students to enroll in college courses
- 71% of high schools and 51% of post-secondary institutions had dual enrollment programs (2002-2003)
- About 5% of all high school students took college courses (2002-2003)

# Presumed Benefits

- Make HS more meaningful
- Acclimate students to college
- Teach students what is expected of them in college (early warning)
- Students accelerate their education saving money
- Improve the connections between high school and college

# Evidence?

- Only a handful of preliminary studies
- These show positive benefits
- Still much more needs to be known

# Reforms of Developmental Education

- Tremendous amount of innovation
- Much more serious attempt to track student progression and diagnose problems that they face and where they exit
- Reforms in counseling, assessment, and pedagogy
- Challenge the model of providing a separate set of classes and services for developmental ed students

# For more information:

Please visit us on the web at

<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu>,

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