

FACTORS THAT IMPACT BLACK STUDENTS' DECISION TO ATTEND AN HBCU VS TRADITIONAL COLLEGE: A SURVEY STUDY

Camden T. Hyde¹, Stacey Rhodes, MD, MS², Evrim Oral, Ph.D², Lisa Moreno-Walton, MD, MS, MSCR, FAEM^{2,3}
Southeastern Louisiana University¹, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center², Department of Emergency Medicine, New Orleans³



Introduction

- Historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) have been described as a stepping stone toward educational inclusion and justice, as well as the development of social and economic equality.
- Prior to the Civil Rights Legislation of 1964, black students could only attend HBCUs, but after the act, they were allowed to attend predominately white institutions (PWIs).
- Prohibiting discrimination in these institutions resulted in an increase in total enrollment across both PWIs and HBCUs.
- According to research, enrollment in HBCUs gradually increased 47 percent between 1976 and 2010, then decreased 11 percent between 2010 and 2018. Similarly, total enrollment in institutions for higher education increased 91 percent between 1976 and 2010, then decreased 7 percent between 2010 and 2018.
- A students' choice of college can determine the course of their career, therefore understanding what goes into this can help students and counselors make more informed decisions.
- In this study, we aimed to determine the factors that impact black students' decision to attend an HBCU vs PWI. In addition, we wanted to understand which factors were most important to students when making this decision.

Objectives

- Determine the factors that impact black students' decision to attend an HBCU vs Traditional.
- Determine which factors were most important to students when choosing to attend an HBCU vs Traditional.

Methods

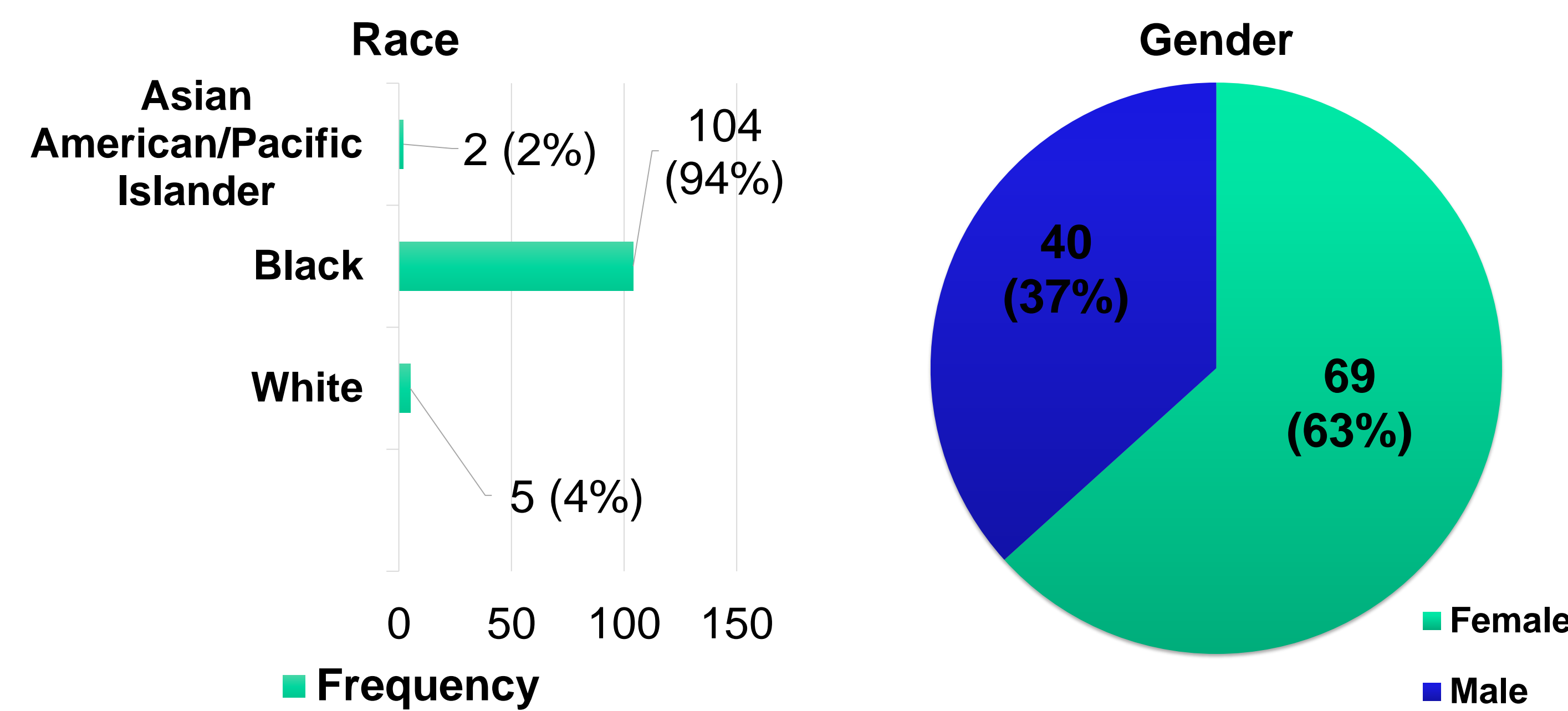
Inclusion Requirements

- 18+ years old
- Black student who is currently enrolled in a college or university

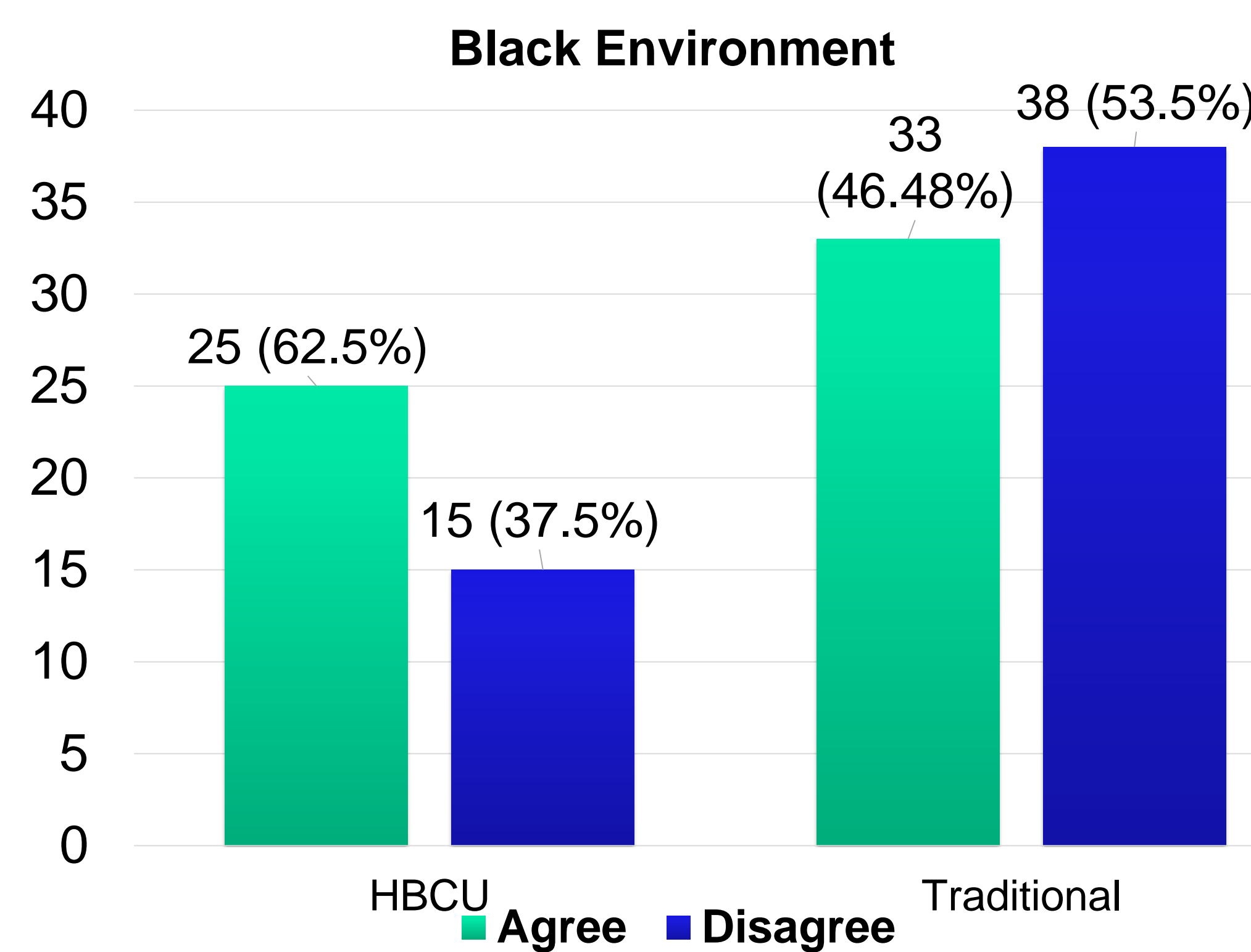
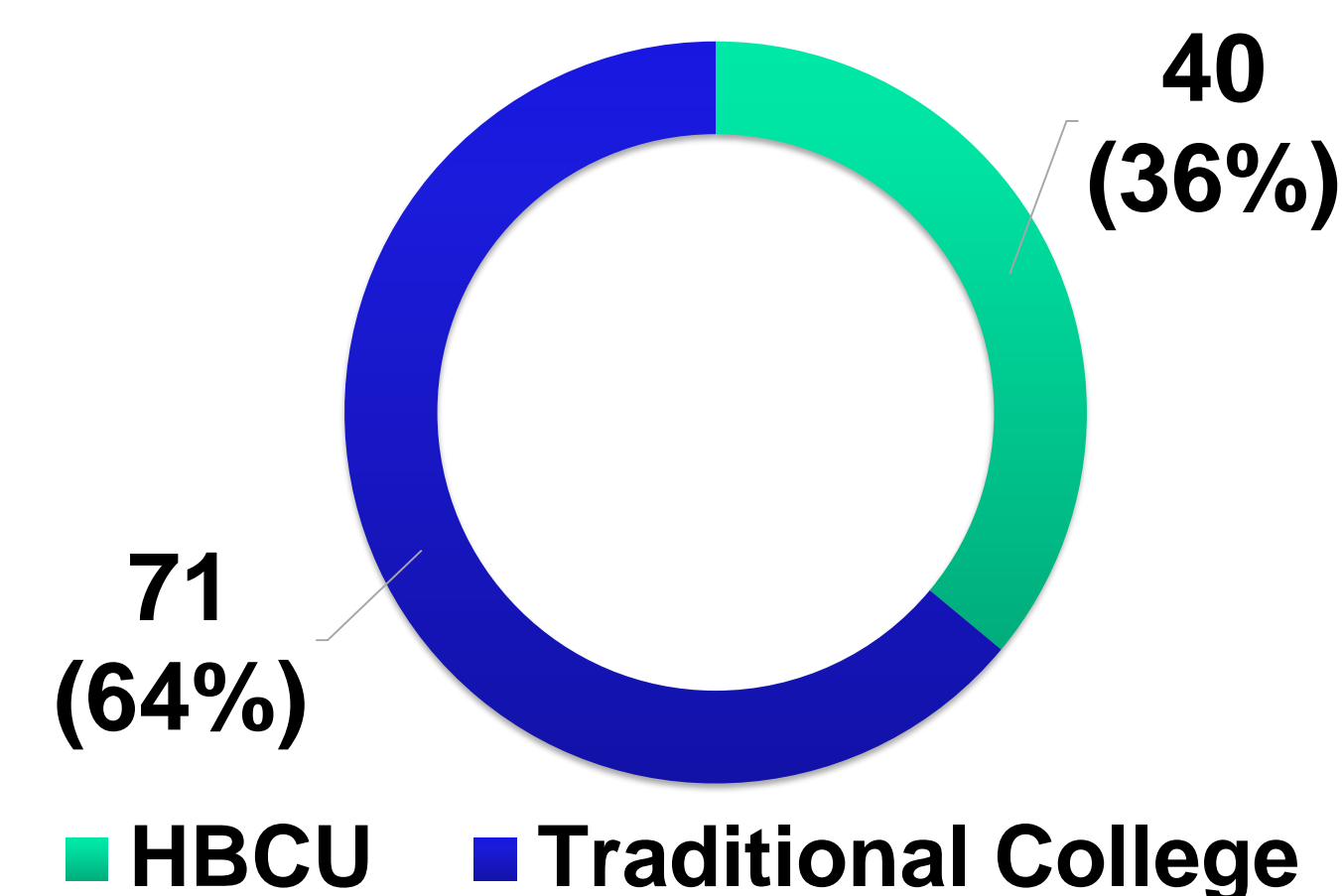
Survey

- 35 item questionnaire designed in REDCap
- Demographics
- Financial Assistance
- Education Level of Parents
- Academic Major
- Likert Scale Questions Assessing Importance of Factors

Survey Results



HBCU vs Traditional College



Type of School	Household Income										Total
	<49,999	50,000-74,999	75,000-99,999	100,000-124,999	125,000-149,999	150,000-174,999	175,000-199,999	200,000-224,999	225,000-249,999	>250,000	
HBCU	4	5	11	4	2	5	3	0	0	3	37
Traditional College	17	16	12	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	54

P=0.0042

N	N Miss	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Median	Maximum
39	1	23.333	4.061	18.000	23.000	36.000

N	N Miss	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Median	Maximum
63	8	21.190	3.614	16.000	21.000	33.000

Conclusions and Summary

- Of all respondents, 71 (64%) attended traditional colleges, and 40 (36%) an HBCU.
- 58 (52.25%) indicated being in a predominately black environment was an important factor in their college decision.
- There was a significant relationship between household income and school type (P=0.0042). Students with lower household incomes attended mostly PWIs.
- In addition, there was a relationship between school type and ACT scores with HBCU students having an average score of 23 and PWI students having an average score of 21.
- No relationship was identified between school type and a students' financial aid, tuition cost, and parents' education level.