



Introduction

We researched the retention rate of Kent State incoming freshman from 2014-2016. We compared two distinct variables: gender and race. Retention rate is defined as whether the student stays at KSU the following semester no matter what reason. We compared this data with national retention rates for the same variables. We also looked at national high school retention rates as well.

High School Retention Rates



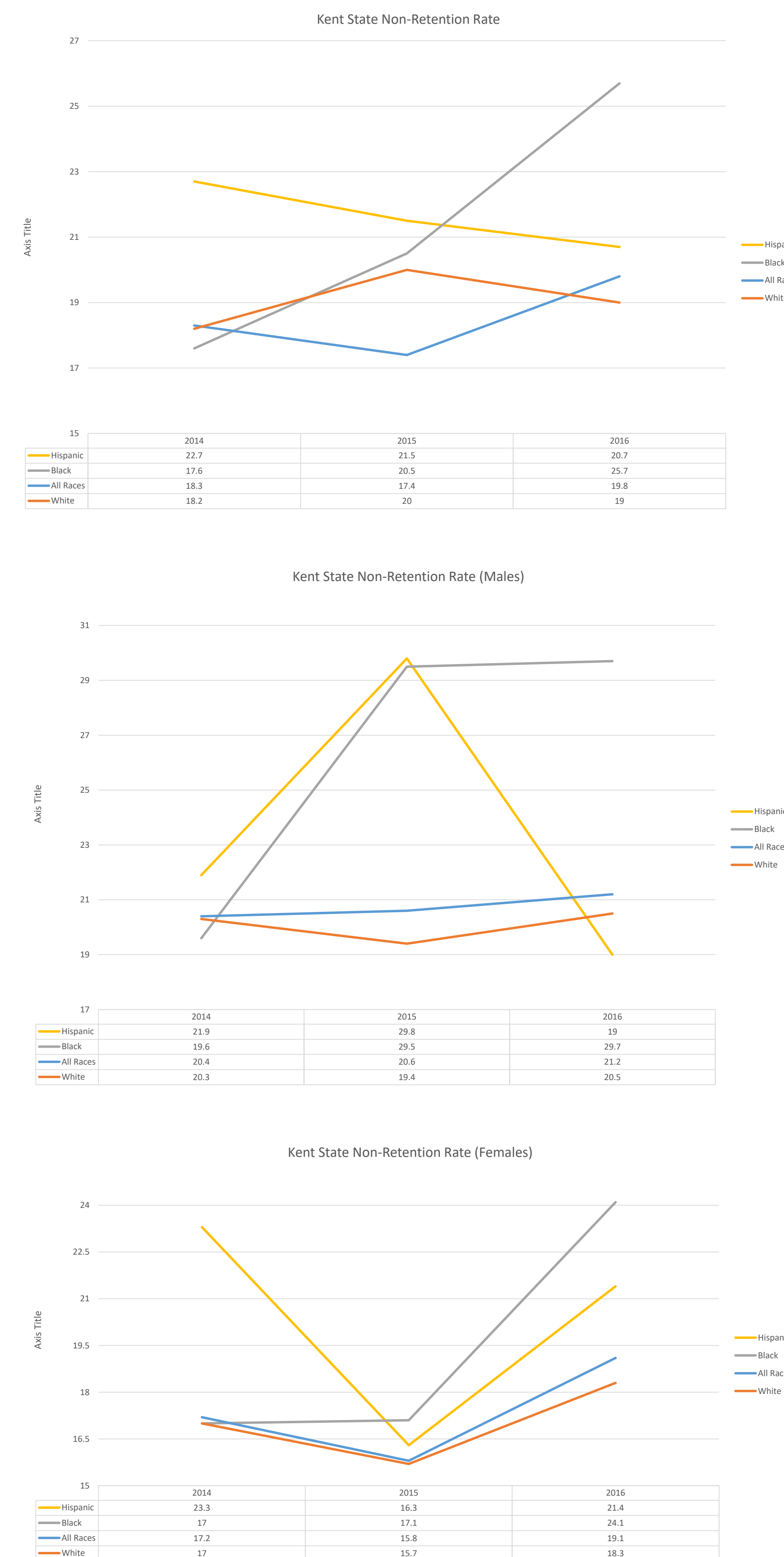
Interesting Trends

- Nationally, we saw an increase in retention of high school Hispanic students of 5.9% in 5 years
- Non-retention of all students has decreased over 5 years
- The overall male dropout rate is on a downward trend, and the dropout rate of male black students is on it's way to going below the national average

Implications of Data

- High school programs to make public education more accessible to the Hispanic community seem to be very successful
- Given the 1.5% increase in retention rate of all students in a short 5 years, the data suggests something interesting, and that is the effect of common core. Being implemented in 2009, directly before this data was collected, there is a possibility that common core education is doing exactly what state politicians were hoping.

Kent State Retention Rate



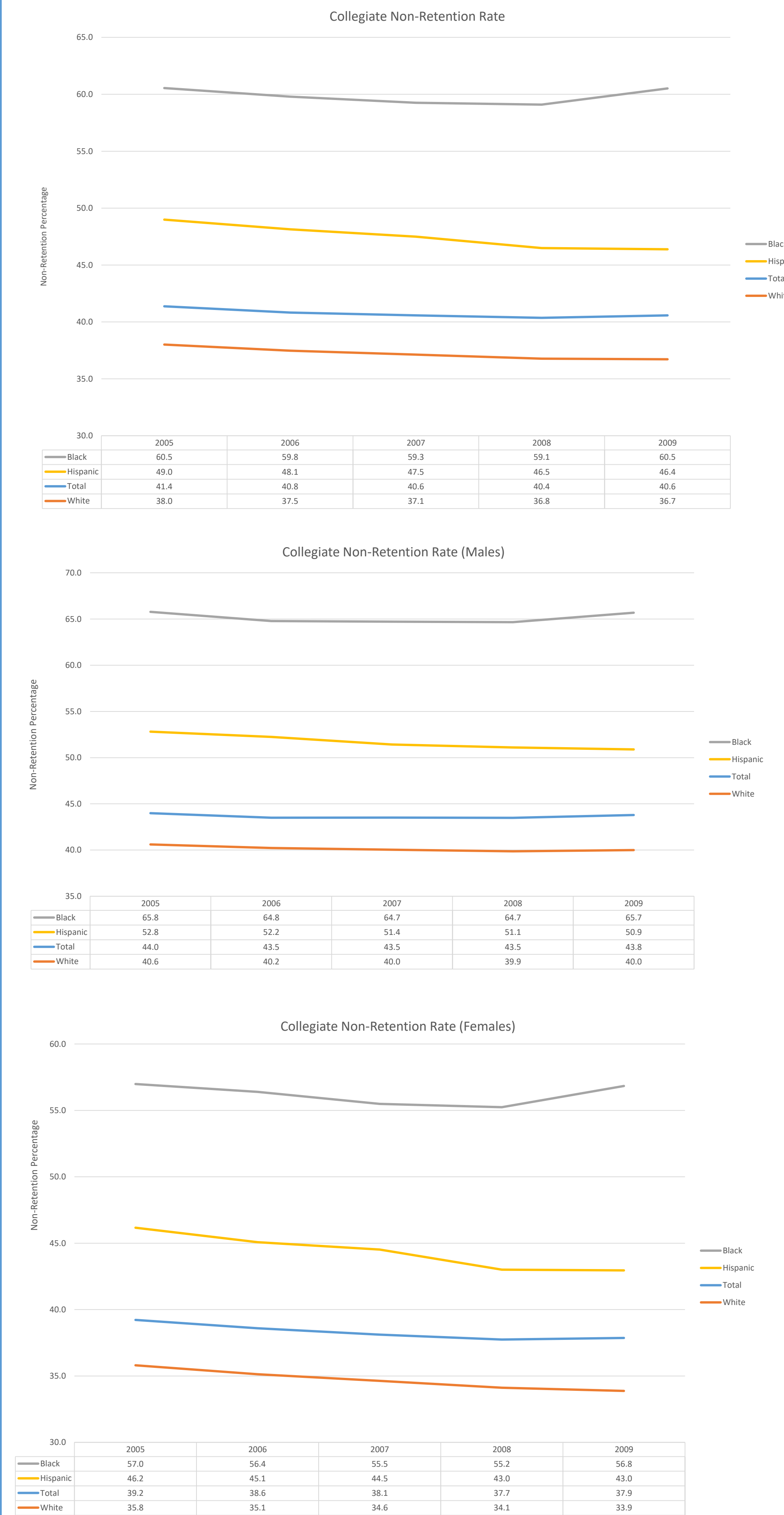
Interesting Trends

- Black students, from the given data, are the only group to show an upward trend in dropout rates in recent years
- Hispanic male and female students, within this time period, have completely opposing changes in dropout rates, and the data seems to have no consistent trend, likely due to sample size from the data provided to us
- There is an overall upward trend in non-retention of students as well

Implications of Data

- Though the data is of a small sample size, the data still shows an upward trend in dropout rates among all the groups represented by the data
- Kent State's programs for multi-cultural students seems to be doing well for Hispanic students, as they are they only group with an overall downward trend

National Collegiate Retention



Interesting Trends

- Black students, more so female students than male students, appear to show no particular change in retention rate over the 5 year time period of the data.
- Overall, black students are the only group to not have a reduced retention rate at the end of the 5 year period
- Female students appear to overall have a more quickly decreasing dropout rate over the time period

Implications of Data

- The data in the table suggests that colleges during the time frame showed little to no ability to lower dropout rates in any colleges
- The data also shows a very large disparity in the success of white students versus all other students

Comparisons

In most recent years, Black students at Kent State have the highest drop-out rate which corresponds to the national average. In previous years, Hispanic students had a higher drop-out rate than Black students which goes against the national trend. Kent State male students had a consistently higher drop-out rate when compared to female students. The national average shows this same result.

Future Research

We would like to explore more data from previous years to see if the trends become more stable or have changed over the years. We would then compare this to the programs Kent State has implemented to see the effectiveness of the programs.

Conclusion

High School drop-out rates have been decreasing over the years, especially for Hispanic students. Over the last 3 years Kent State drop-out rates have been inconsistent but this is partially due to our small sample size. National drop-out rates have dropped slightly. Hopefully, in the future drop-out rates continue to decline in all 3 of these areas.