

The African American Transfer Tipping Point:

Exploring the Transfer Journeys of Over 7,000 African American/Black Community College Students

The

African American

Transfer Tipping Point Study



THROUGH THE GATESM
theRPgroup

About The RP Group

Mission: As the representative organization for Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness (IRPE) professionals in the California Community Colleges (CCC) system, The RP Group strengthens the ability of CCC to discover and undertake high-quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.

Services: Research, evaluation, planning, professional development, and technical assistance—designed and conducted by CCC practitioners

Organization: 501(c)3 with roots as membership organization



Through the Gate

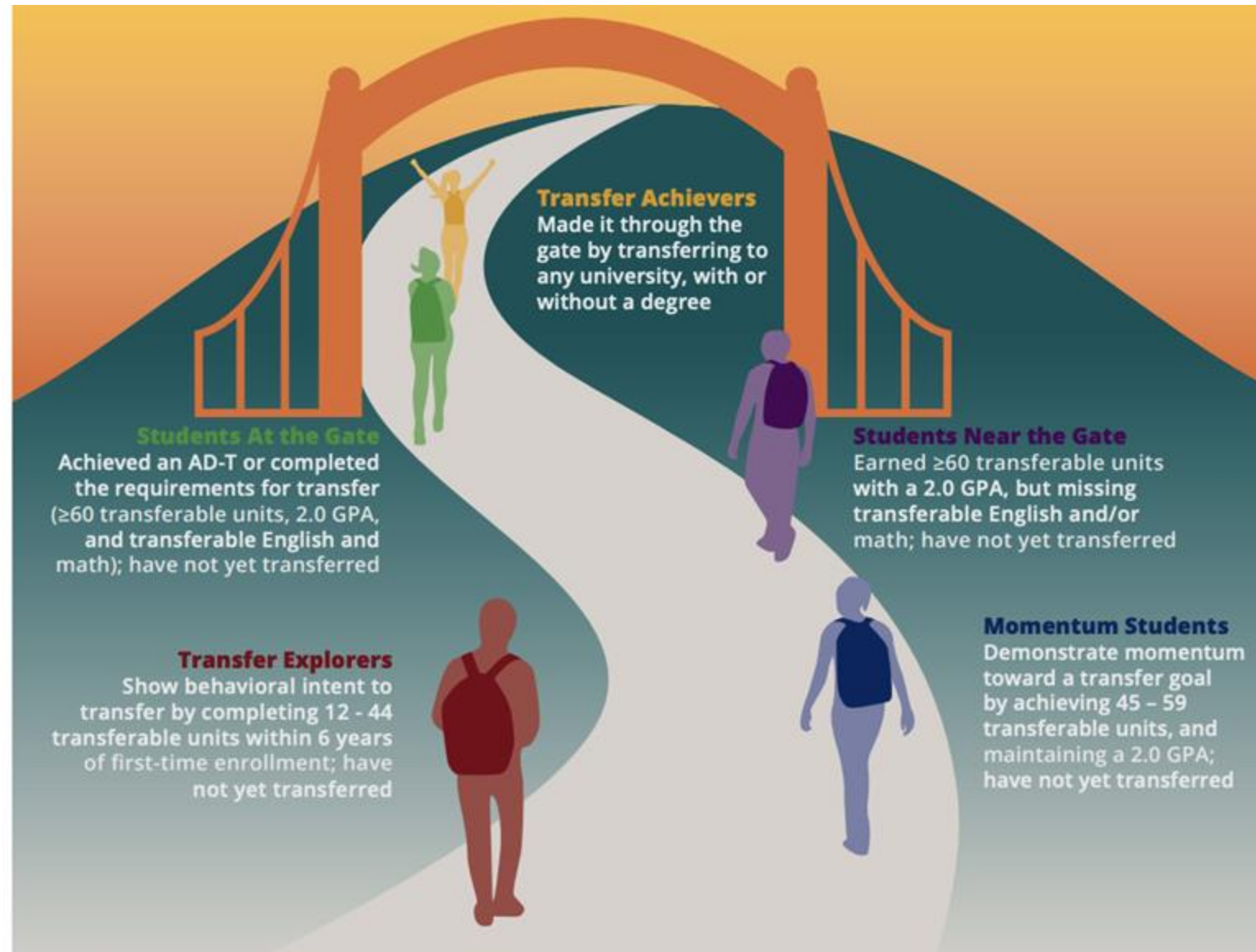
Mapped California's transfer landscape, identifying a continuum of milestones for the student transfer journey and quantifying how many students were "near" or "at" the transfer gate



Through the Gate

While African American/Black students are less likely to make it “near the transfer gate,” among those who do reach this milestone, they are significantly *more* likely to transfer than their peers.

When compared to White students, African American/Black students are **2.04 times more likely to transfer** than remain near the gate.



The African American Transfer Tipping Point

Study made possible with generous funding from:



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GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What factors (both academic and non-academic) contribute to students' likelihood of reaching the tipping point?
- Which programs and practices are associated with greater persistence to and through the tipping point, and ultimately, the transfer gate?

METHODS

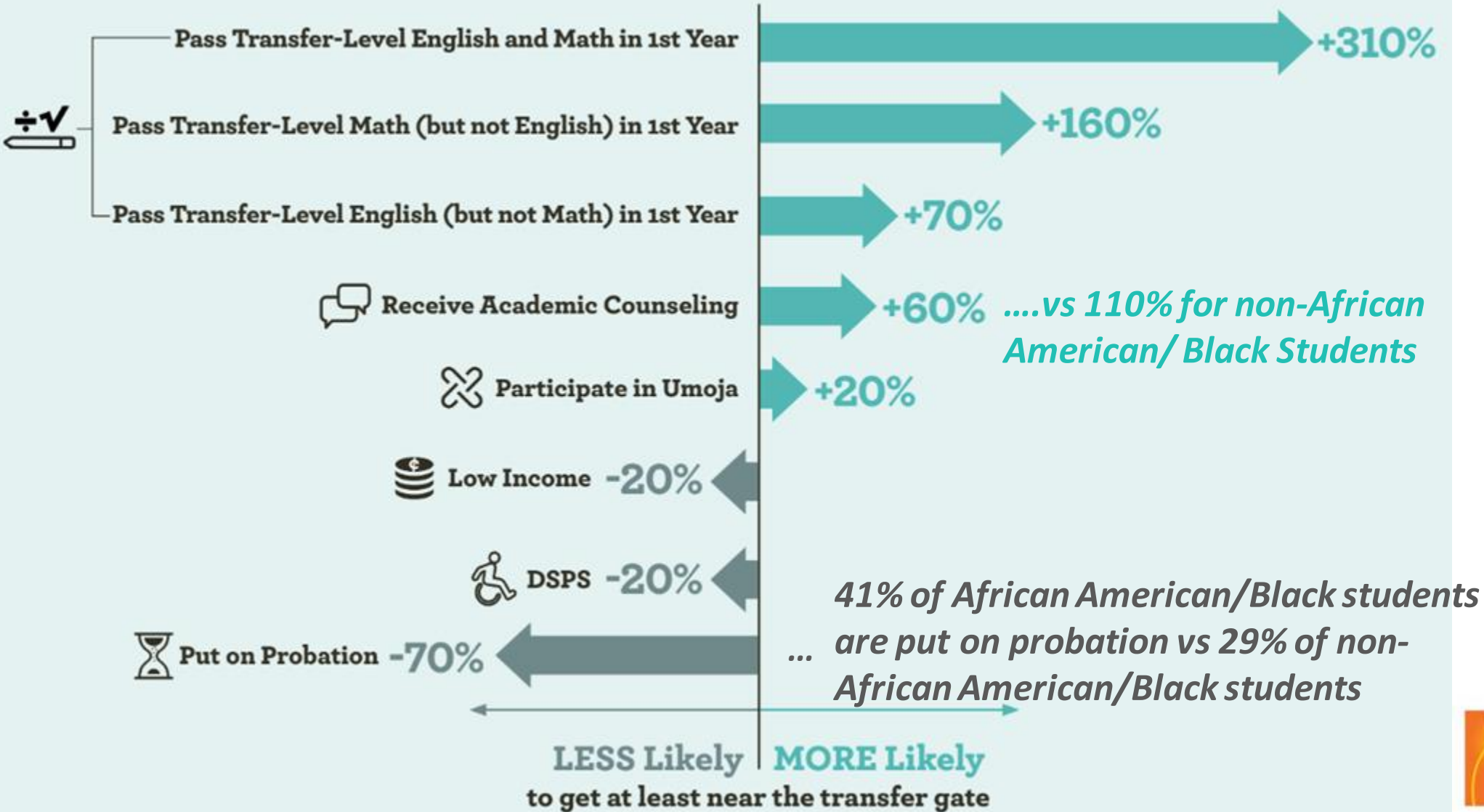
- **Phase 1:** Exploring student course-taking patterns
- **Phase 2:** Interviews and focus groups with college practitioners and transfer-motivated students at colleges having higher success with transfer among African American students
- **Phase 3:** A survey of African American/Black students across the CCC

***Phases 1 and 2:
Factors Influencing Whether or Not an
African American/Black Student Makes
It Near The Transfer Gate***

POPULATION

- Six first-time cohorts enrolled at a CCC between 2011 and 2016
- Tracked for six years
- Completed at least 12 transferable units with passing grades and had not yet enrolled in a university
- 69,242 African American/Black students and 778,977 non-African American/Black students

Phase 1 Results



Phase 2 Results

Interviews and Focus Groups Revealed.....

Passing Math and English: Faculty help students build their confidence as students, increase their mastery of key subjects and support their success.

Academic Counseling: Students avoided general and Transfer Center counseling, as they did not feel heard, seen, valued, or respected and did not see themselves reflected.

Umoja: Mandatory, dedicated, and proactive counseling offered by Umoja allows the time and space for counselors who reflect students' backgrounds to build relationships with them.

Academic Probation: The word probation is triggering. Receiving a notice of probation can be devastating. Probation negatively impacts financial aid eligibility.

***Phase 3:
Leveraging Statewide Survey
Findings to Dive Deeper into Results***

Phase 3 Survey Sample

Of the 7,148 respondents...

- 75% were currently enrolled at a CCC (n=5,348)
- 13% had transferred to a university (n=936)
- 13% had exited without transferring (n=864)
 - 57% had planned to at some point

Phase 3 Survey Sample

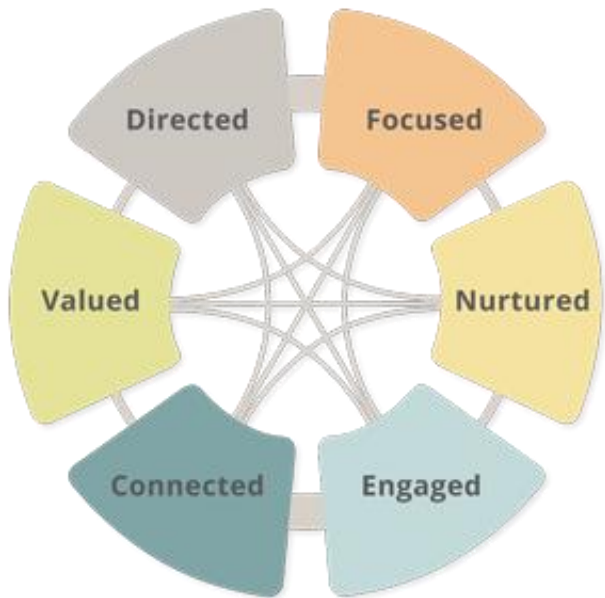
- 121 CCCs*
- 64% Female
- 48% Ages 18-25
- 47% Financial Aid Recipients
- 44% First Generation
- 22% with Physical or Cognitive Disabilities
- 14% LGBTQ
- 11% Student Athlete
- 10% with Mental Health Condition
- 7% Military
- 7% Former Foster Youth
- 4% Justice Involved

Participation in Groups

- 28% EOPS
- 18% Umoja
- 13% DSPS
- 10% Promise Program
- 10% Honors Programs
- 9% Black Scholars
- 8% MESA
- 8% Dual Enrollment
- 6% Aspire
- 4% Puente

*includes five non-credit colleges

Phase 3 Constructs Explored

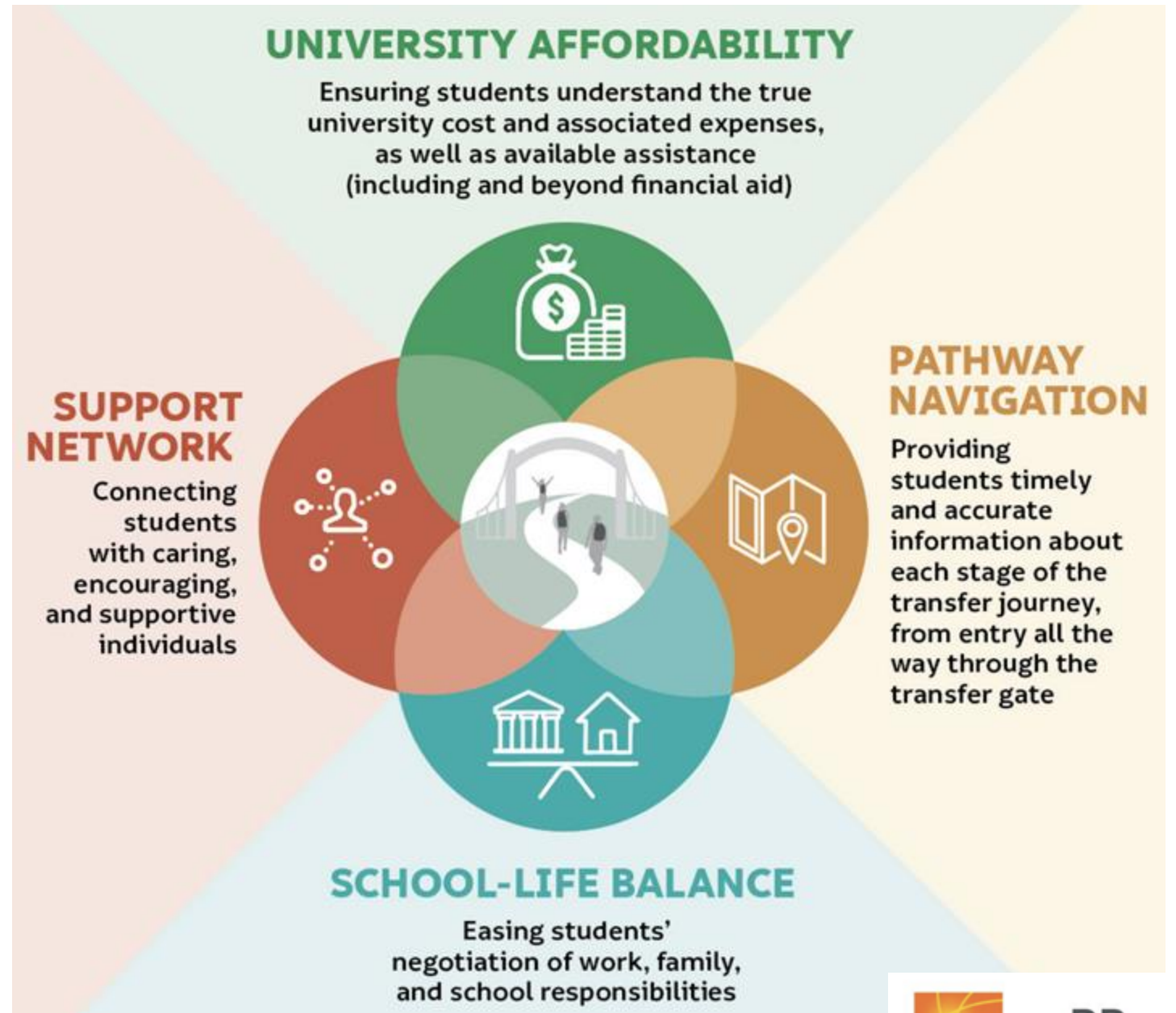


Six Success Factors SM
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Six Success Factor Definitions

- **Directed:** students have a goal and know how to achieve it
- **Focused:** students stay on track – keeping their eyes on the prize
- **Nurtured:** students feel somebody wants and helps them to succeed
- **Engaged:** students actively participate in class and extracurricular activities
- **Connected;** students feel like they are a part of the college community
- **Valued:** students' skills, talents, abilities, and experiences are recognized; they have opportunities to contribute on campus, and feel their contributions are appreciated.

Phase 3 Constructs Explored



Phase 3 Constructs Explored

Microaggressions

Ascription of Intelligence: Assigning a degree of intelligence to a person of color based on race

Assumption of Criminality: Assuming a person of color is dangerous, criminal, or deviant based on race

Second-Class Citizenizing: When a White person is given preferential treatment over a person of color

Pathologizing Culture: The notion that the values and communication styles of the dominant/White culture are ideal

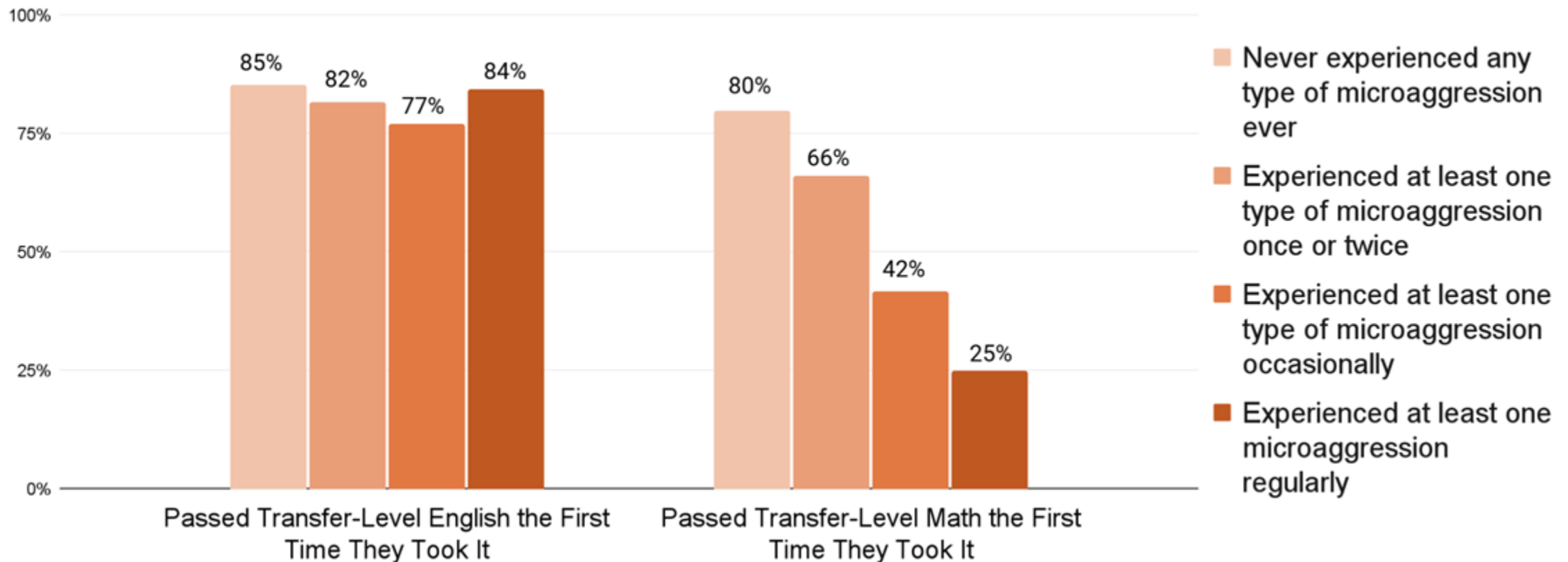
Phase 3: Four Core Student Experiences

- Passing Transfer-Level Math and English
- Academic Counseling
- Umoja
- Academic Probation

Passing Transfer-Level Math and English

Transfer-Level Course Passing

African American/Black Students who did not pass math on the first try were much more likely to report having experienced microaggressions during their time at their college. No association was found when it came to passing transfer-level English.



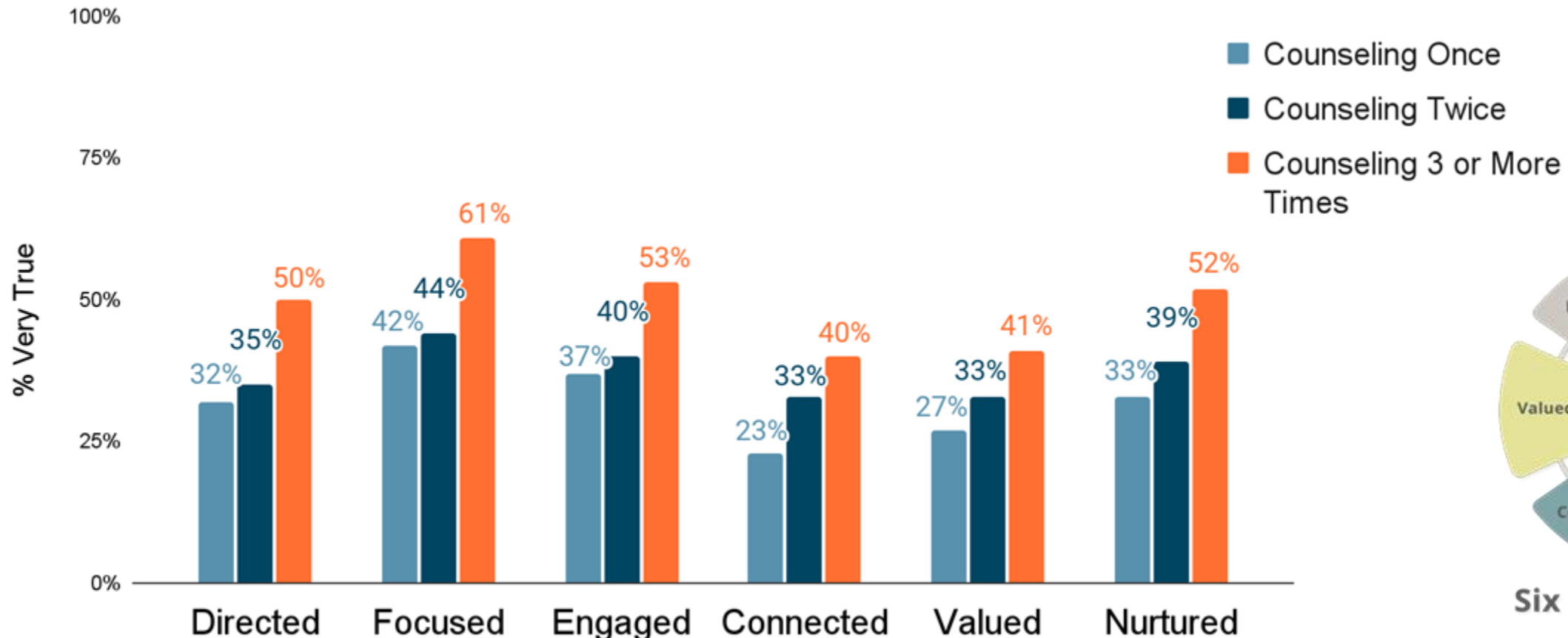
Academic Counseling

Academic Counseling

- Two-thirds of African American/Black survey respondents said they would prefer to see an African American/Black counselor, but only half saw an African American/Black counselor.
- 42% of students who successfully transferred met with a African American/Black counselor compared to 33% among students who left without transferring.

Academic Counseling

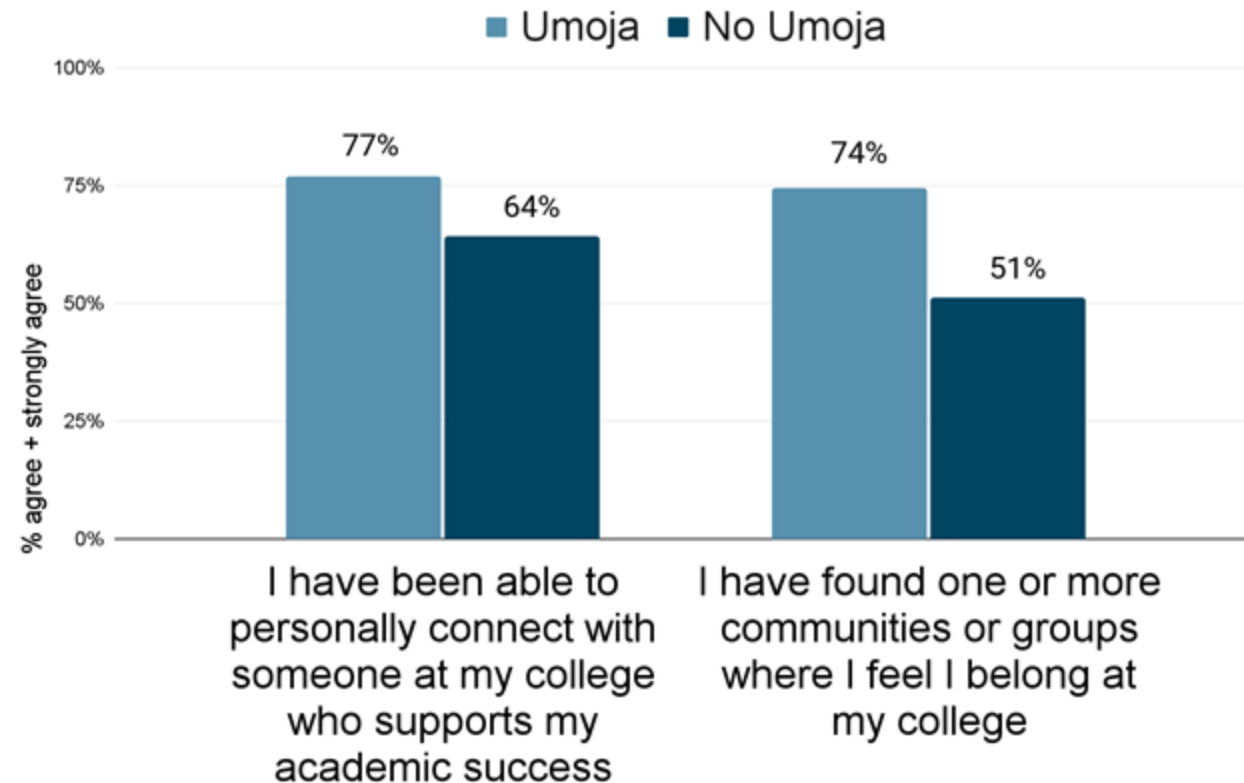
The more frequently African American/Black students received academic counseling, the more likely they were to identify with each of the six student success factors, notably the degree to which they were focused.



Umoja

Umoja

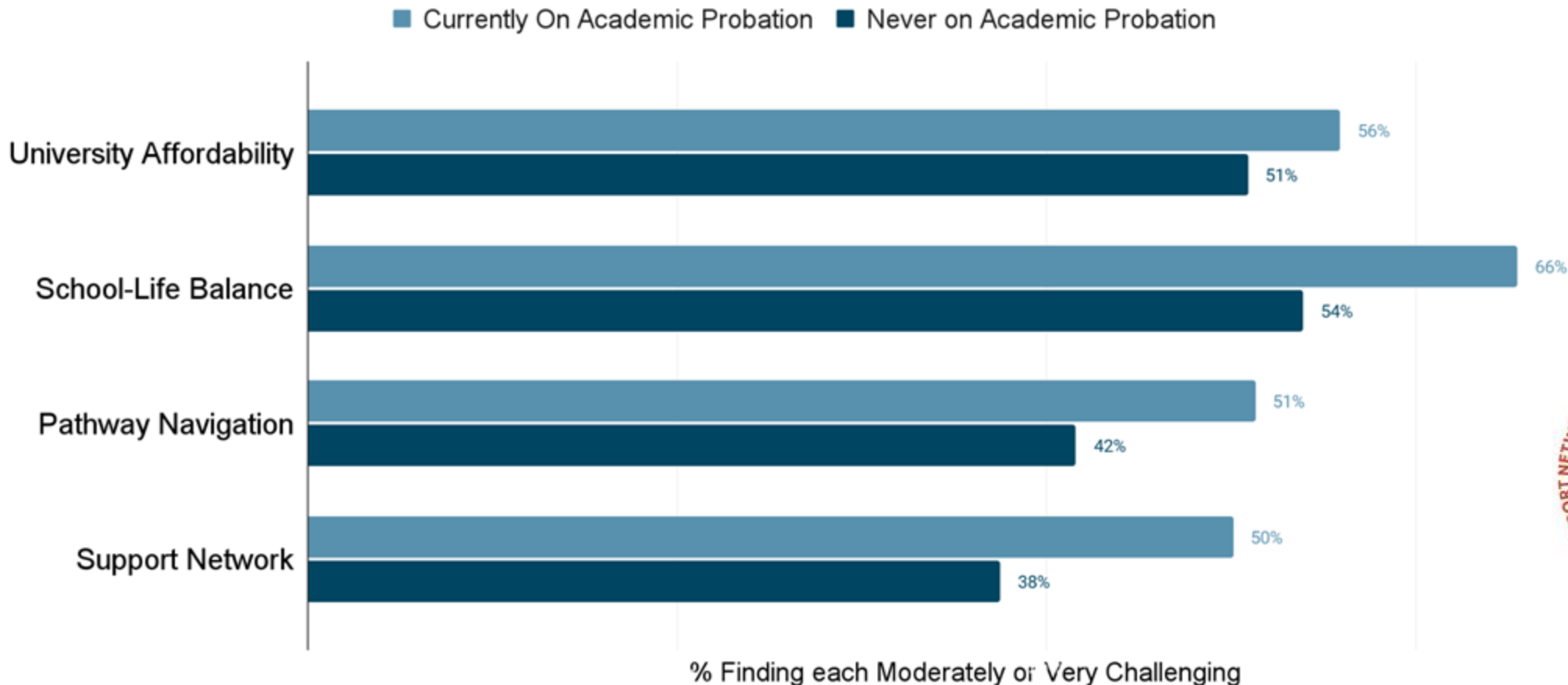
- 44% of Umoja participants received academic counseling at least 3 times vs. 31% among non-Umoja participants.
- 79% of Umoja participants had seen an African American/Black counselor vs. 45% of non-Umoja participants.
- Umoja participants are more likely to find a community where they belong and to personally connect with someone at their college who supports their academic success.
- Students who participated in Umoja were more likely to identify with each of the six student success factors than those who did not participate in Umoja.



Academic Probation

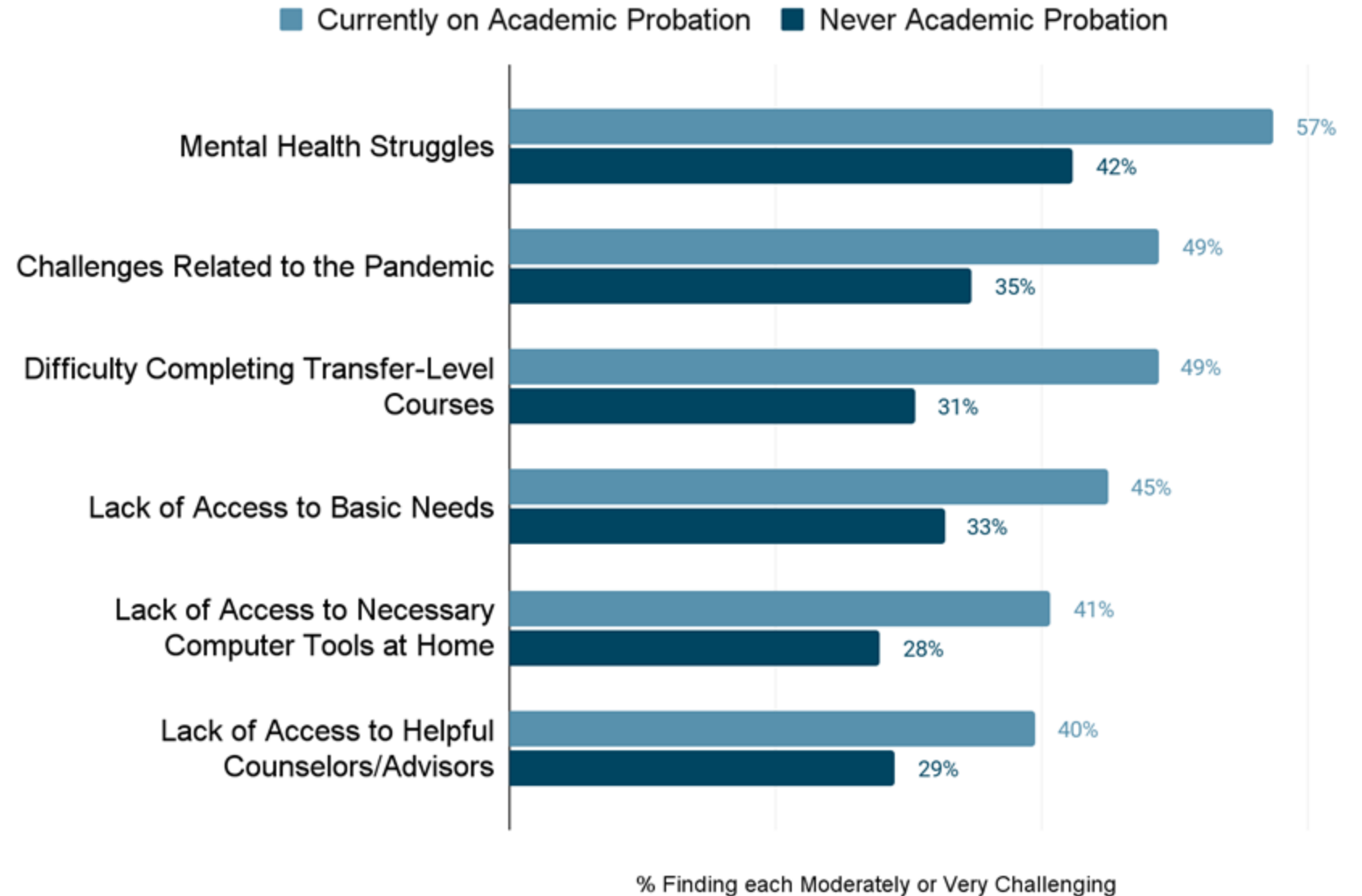
Academic Probation

Students who were currently on probation were much more likely than students never on probation to report the challenges of University Affordability, School-Life Balance, Pathway Navigation, and finding a Support Network.



Academic Probation

Students who were currently on probation were much more likely than students never on probation to report various challenges in their daily lives.



Let's Discuss!



**Anita
Bailey**



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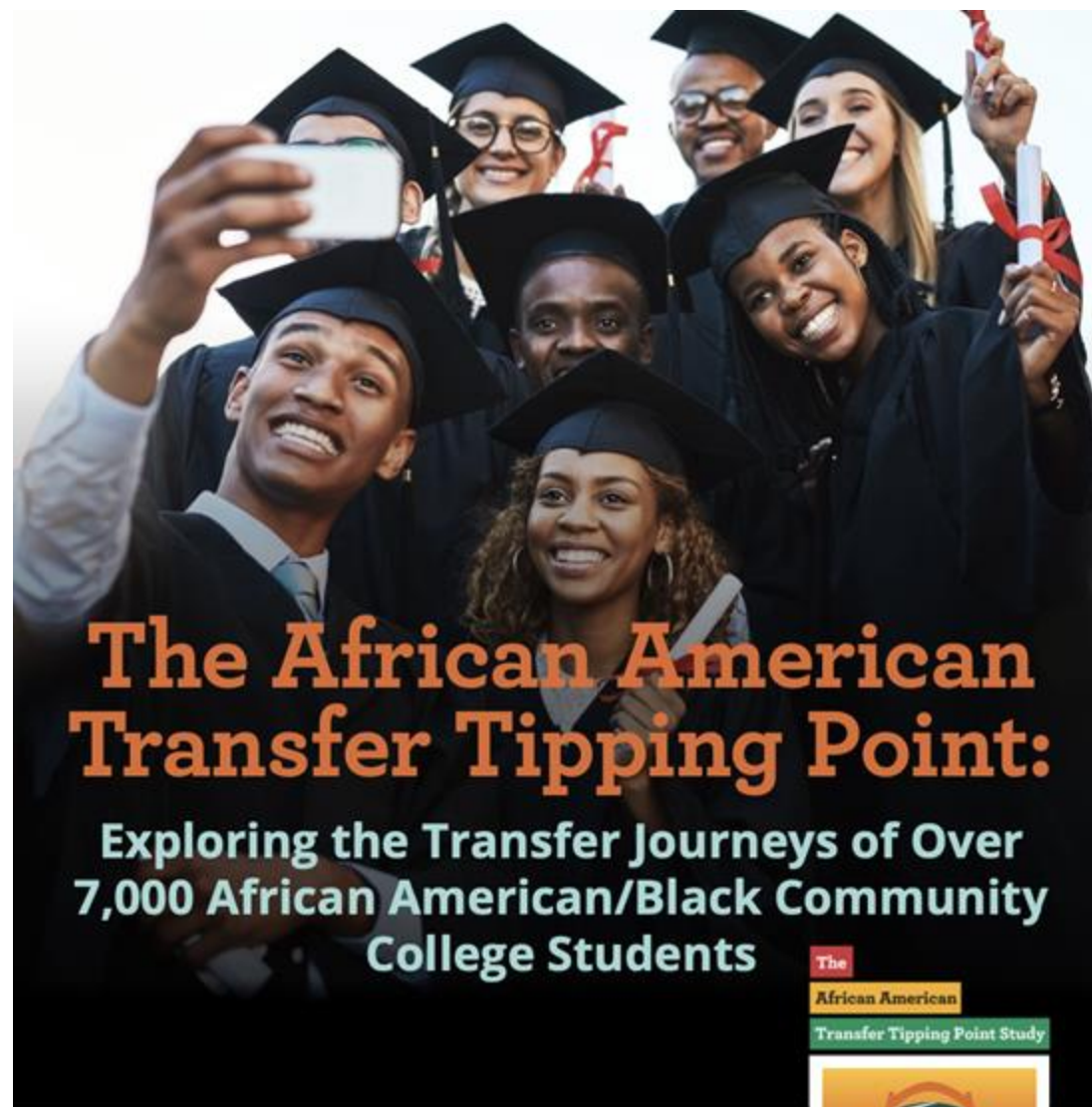


**Dr. Frank
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New Report!



The African American Transfer Tipping Point Study



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Darla M. Cooper, EdD
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October 2023



Join us next week! 11/7

NEW WEBINAR SERIES: SPOTLIGHT ON...

Moorpark College: Academic Probation Reimagined

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 | 12-1 pm

Learn more and RSVP



THANK YOU!

Click on the QR Code to access the project webpage. Click on Resources tab to access briefs.



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