

College Enrollment Before, During and After the Great Recession

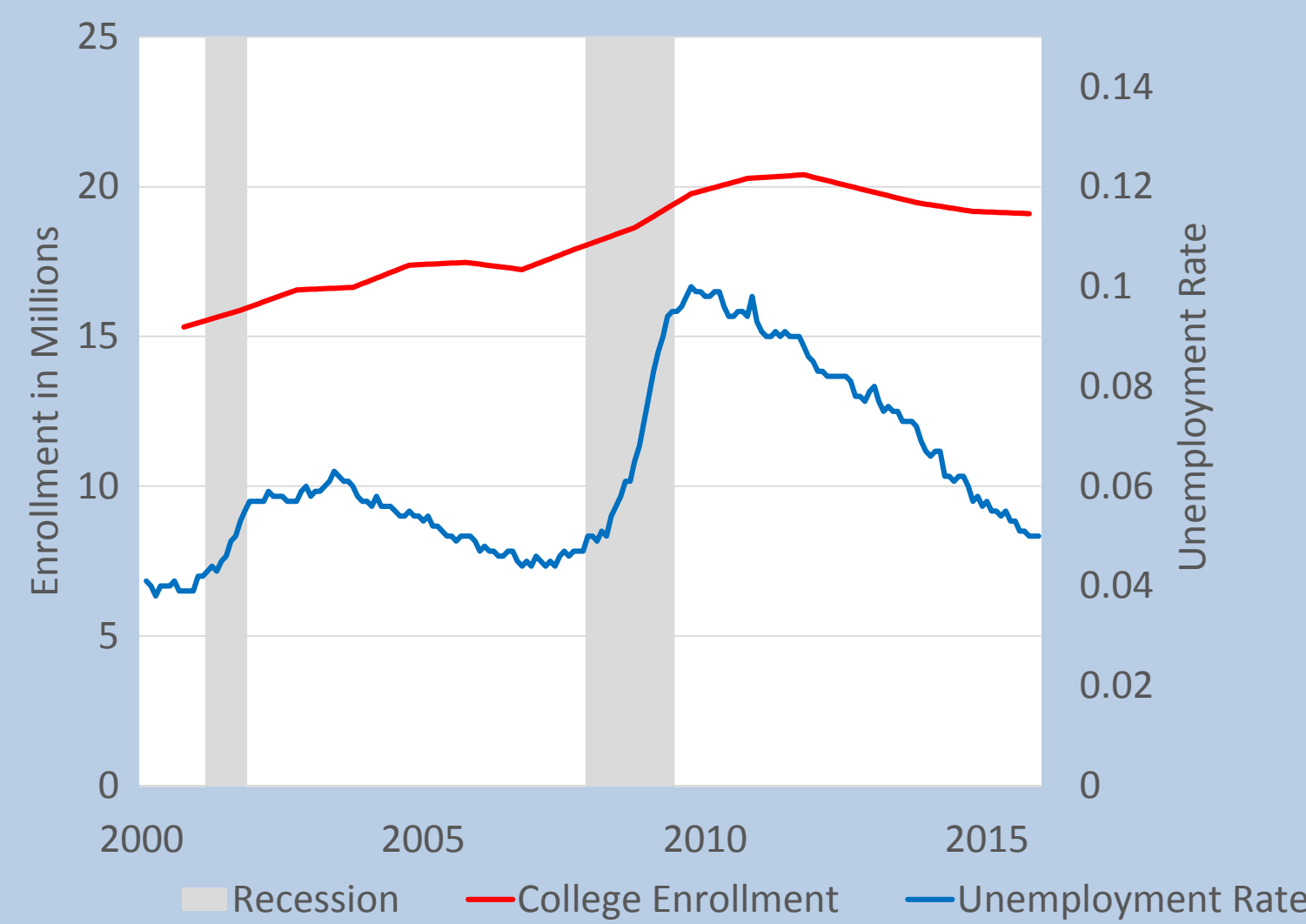
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MOTIVATION

- How did college enrollment change across the period spanning before, during and after the Great Recession?
- Who went to college and what were they doing before college?
- Who left college across the period and how much study did they complete?

Figure 1. Total College Enrollment and Unemployment Rate



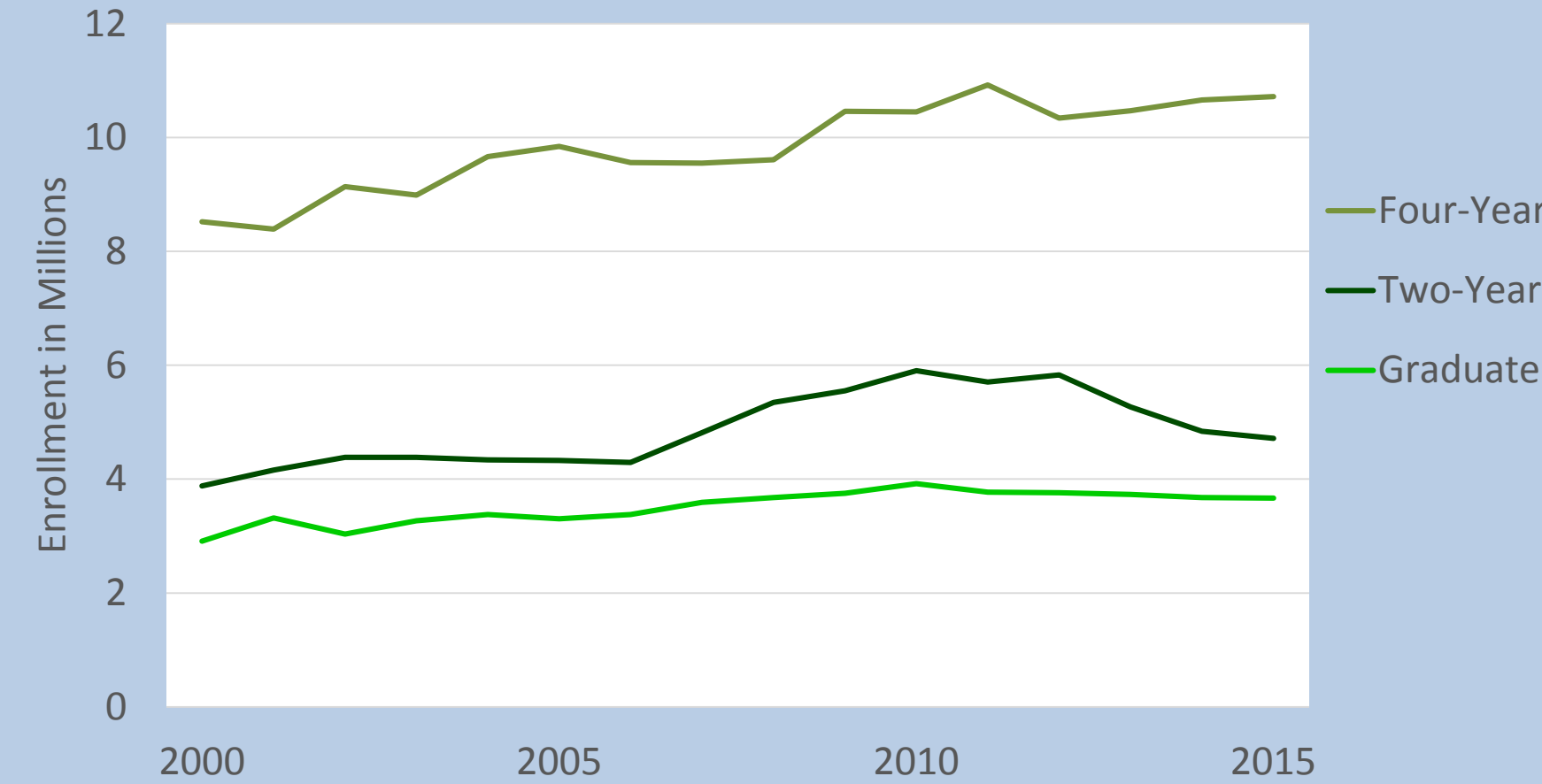
DATA AND METHODS

- October Current Population Survey School Enrollment Supplement, 2000-2015.
- Trends in estimated total college enrollment and components of total enrollment mapped across time.
- Logistic regression models predicting college enrollment from different prior year statuses to further explore components of change in total college enrollment, and enrollment inflows and outflows.

TOTAL COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

- Total college enrollment increased from 15.3 million students in 2000 to 20.4 million in 2011, before decreasing to 19.1 million in 2015 (Figure 1).

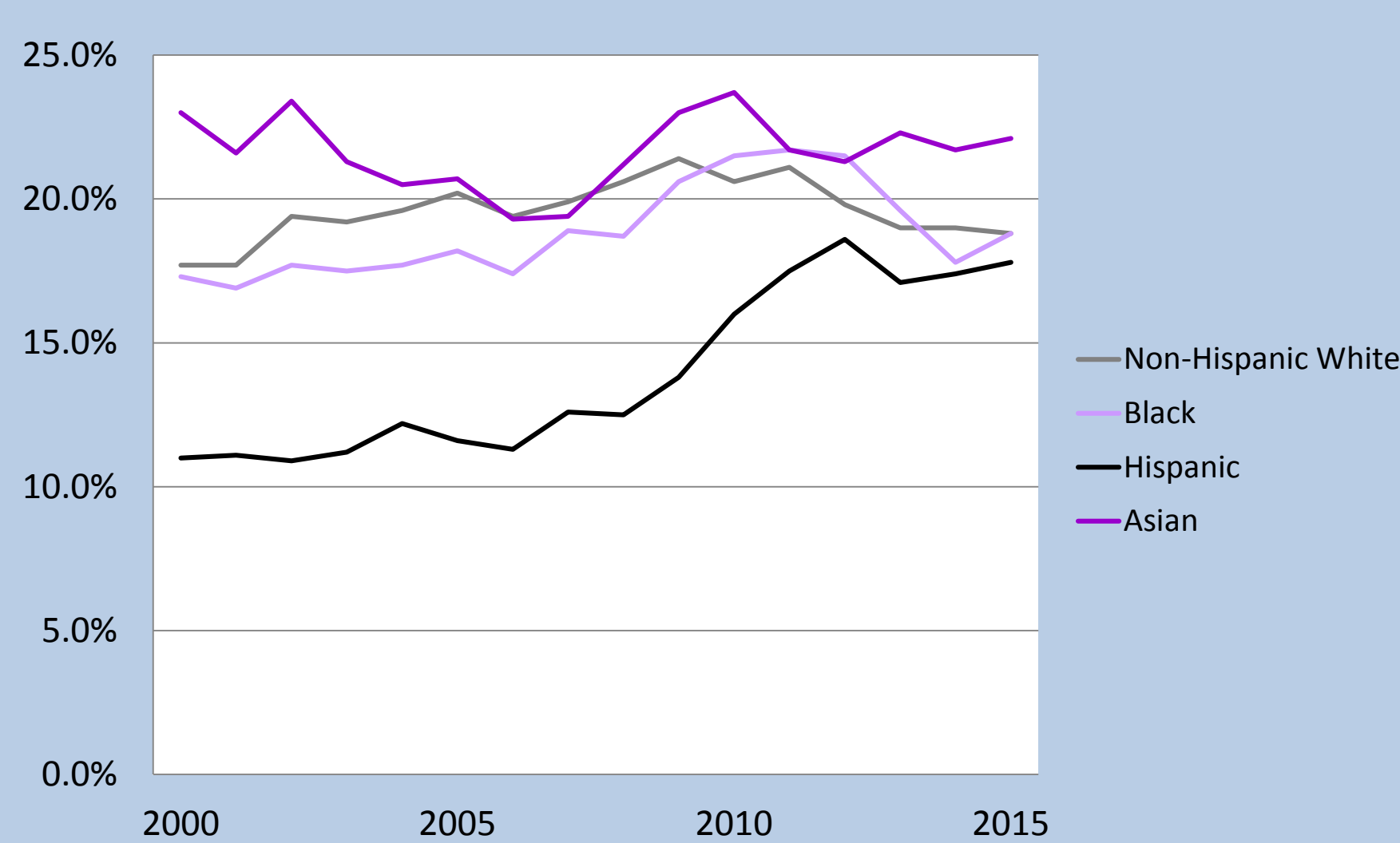
Figure 2. Total Enrollment in Two- and Four-Year College, and Graduate School



COMPONENTS OF CHANGE

- Enrollment increased in both two-year colleges and four-year colleges between 2000 and 2015 (Figure 2).
- Enrollment in two-year colleges increased from 2007 to 2012 before decreasing to 2015, when enrollment approximated 2007 levels (Figure 2).
- Enrollment in four-year colleges increased from 2007 to 2011 and was comparable in 2011 and 2015 (Figure 2).
- 11.0 percent of Hispanics aged 18 to 34 were enrolled in undergraduate college in 2000, while 17.7 percent of non-Hispanic Whites were. In 2015, 17.8 percent of Hispanics and 18.8 percent of non-Hispanic Whites were enrolled.

Figure 3. Undergraduate Enrollment, 18 to 34 Years



LIKELIHOOD OF ENROLLMENT

- Enrollment from high school was more likely during the recession period than before the recession. Hispanics were more likely to enroll during the recession and post-recession period than they were before.
- Those not enrolled in school the prior year were more likely to enroll during the recession period than before. Hispanics were more likely to enroll during the recession than before and were even more likely to enroll in after the recession.
- College students were more likely to remain enrolled in college during and after the recession than before.

Figure 4. Predicted Probability Enrollment, Males 18-19 in High School Previous Year

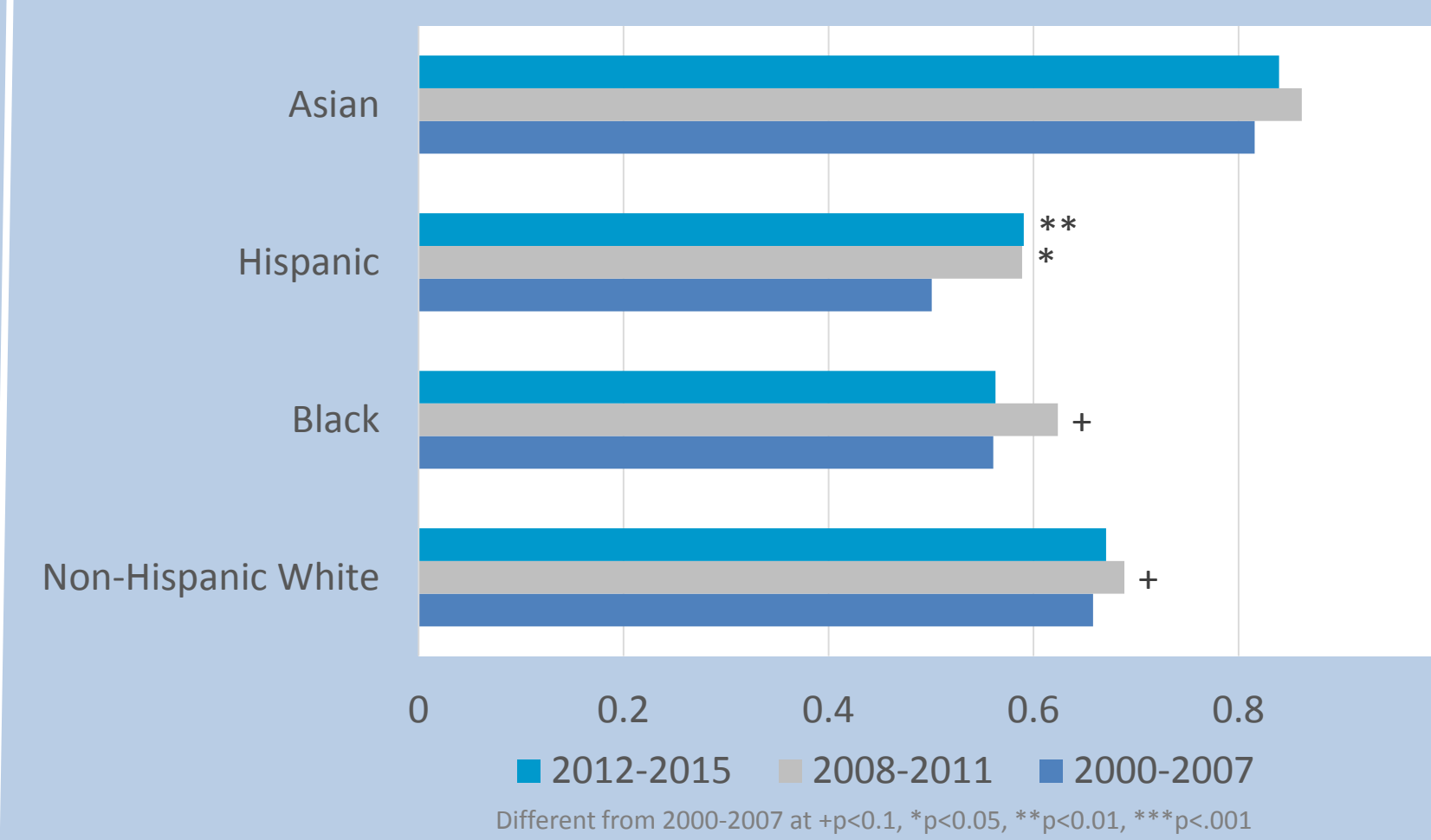


Figure 6. Predicted Probability of Continuing College Enrollment, Males 20-24

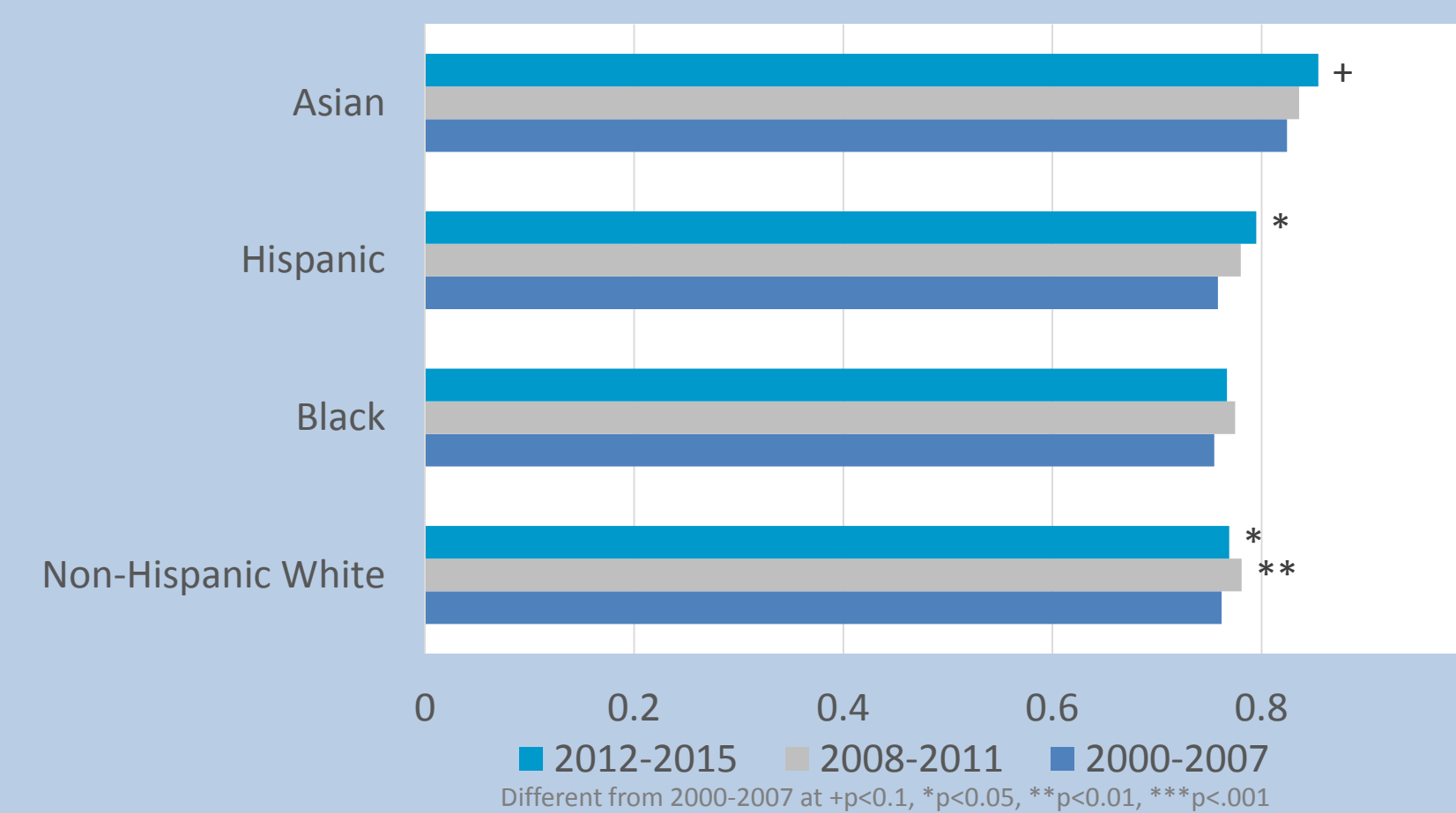
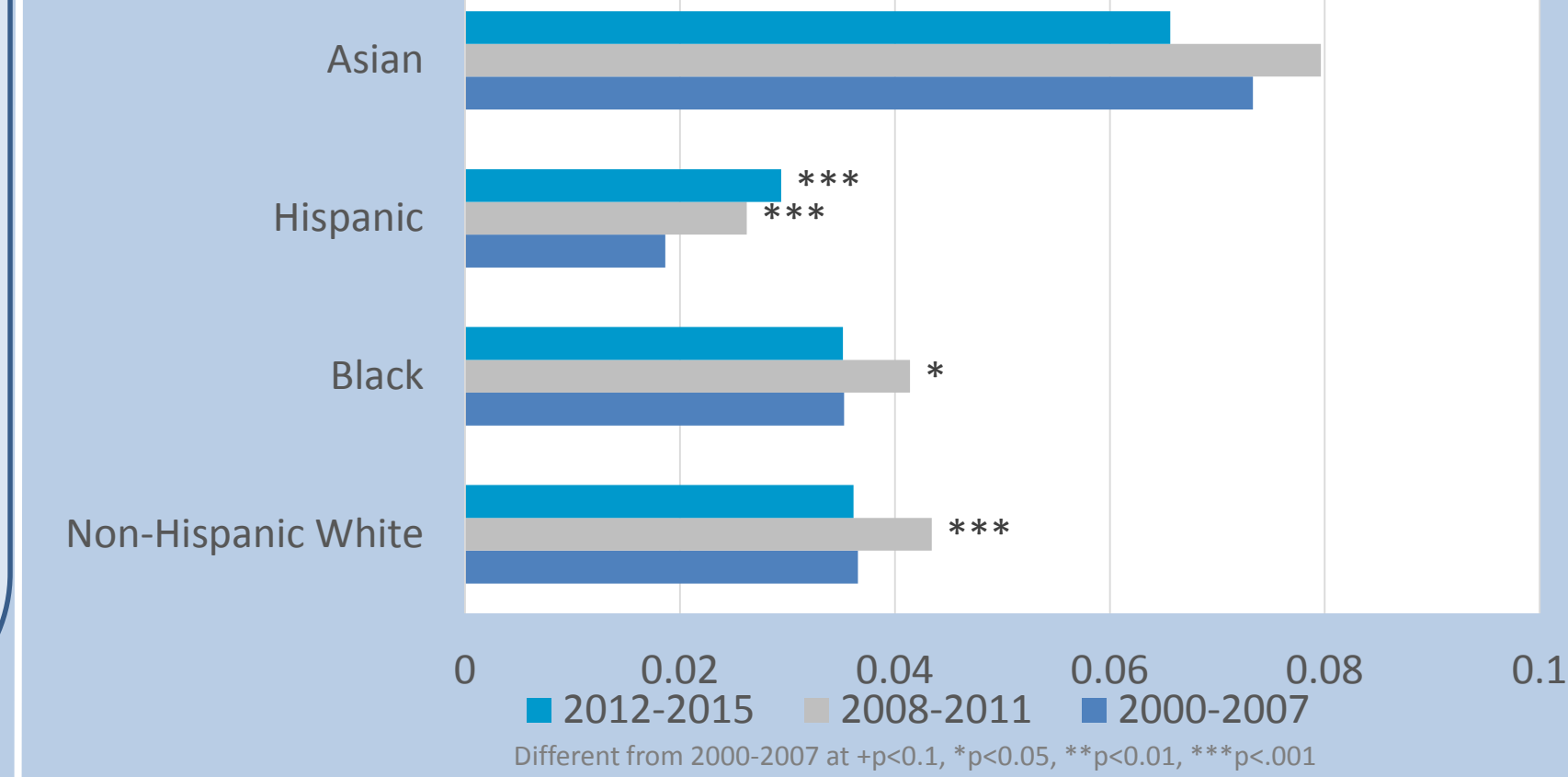


Figure 5. Predicted Probability of Enrollment, Males 25-29 not enrolled Previous Year



COLLEGE EXIT

- The percentage of students leaving college without a degree decreased across the 2000-2015 period.
- The percentage of students who remained enrolled in college increased across the period.
- There was no clear pattern of change in the percent of students leaving college with an associate's or bachelor's degrees.

Figure 7. Not Enrolled, no Degree by Level of Prior Year College Enrollment

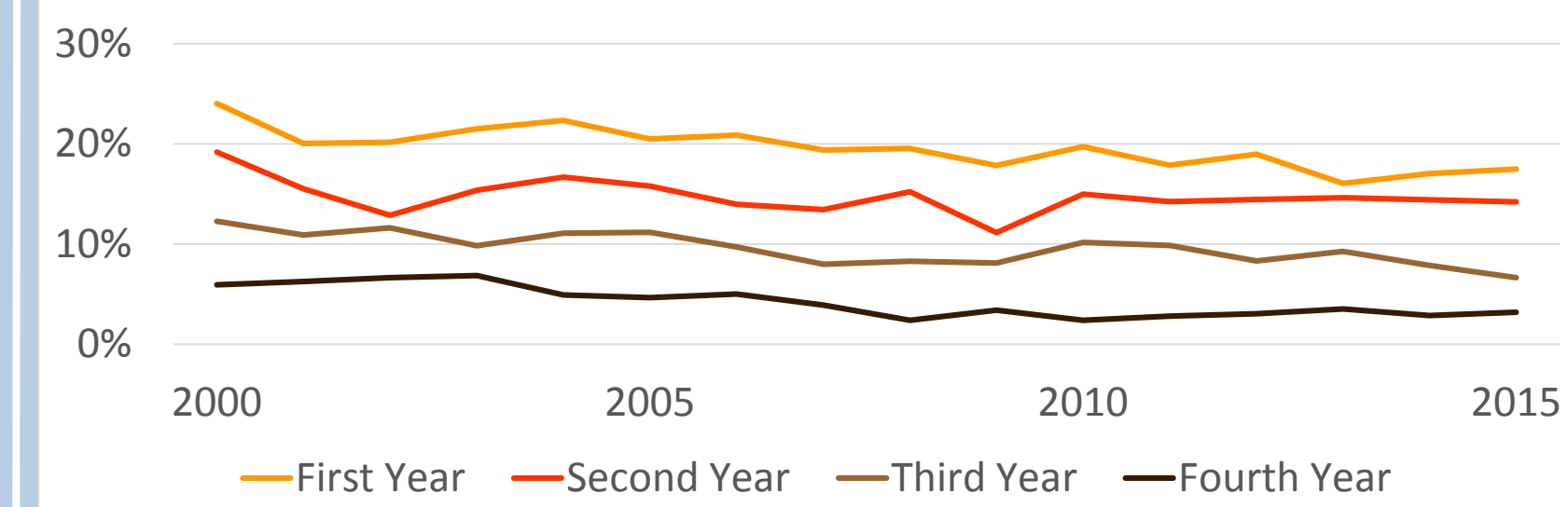


Figure 8. Percent Enrolled by Level of Prior Year College Enrollment

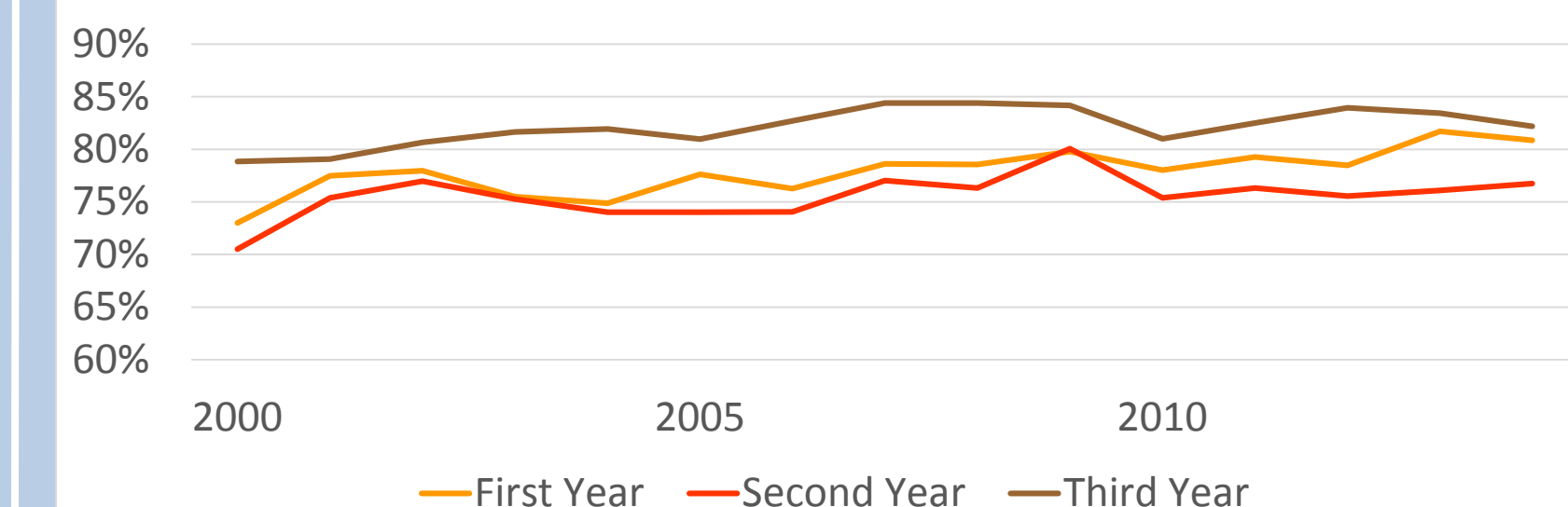


Figure 9. Not Enrolled, Associate's Degree by Level of Prior Year College Enrollment

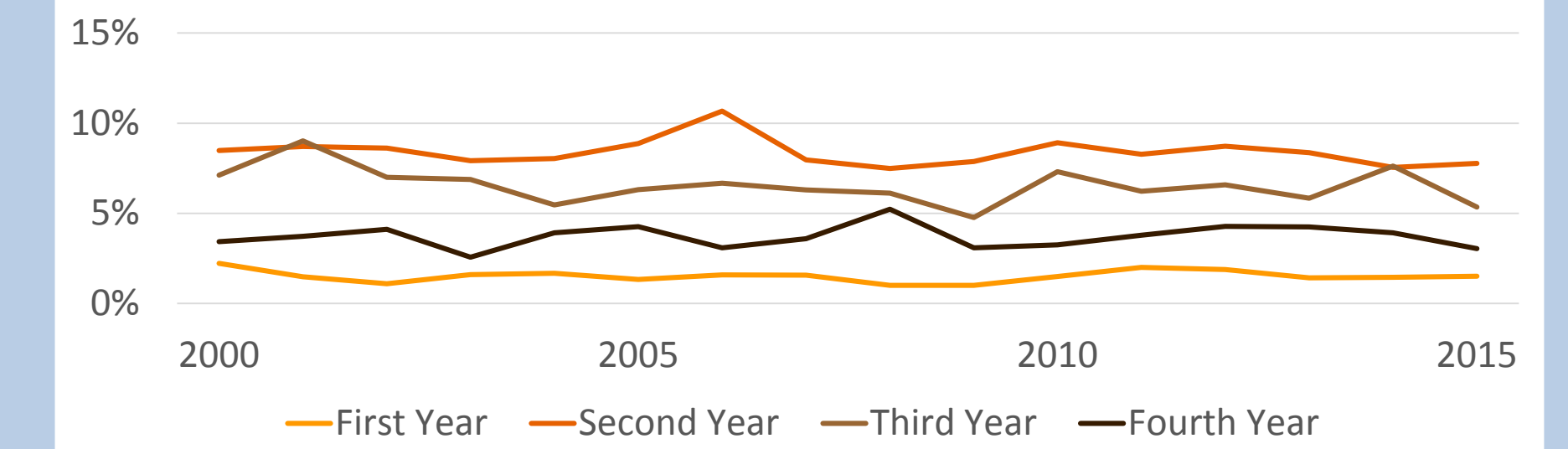
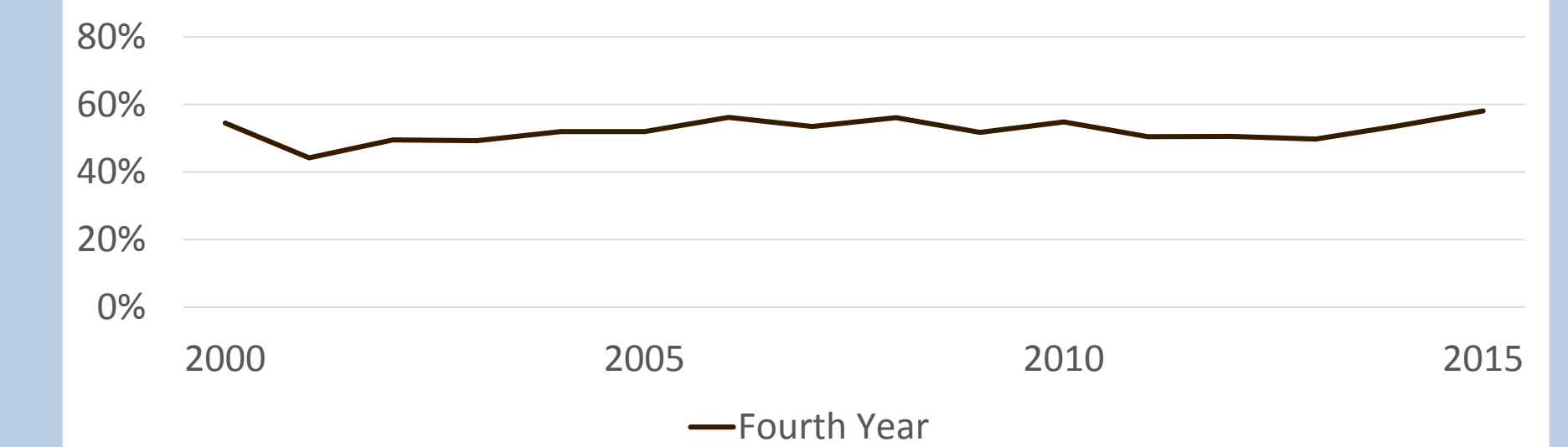


Figure 10. Not Enrolled, Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in Year 4 of College Last Year



CONCLUSIONS

During the Great Recession:

- High school students were more likely to enroll in college.
- People not in school were more likely to enroll in college.
- College students were more likely to remain enrolled year-to-year.
- The percentage of students leaving college without degrees decreased.
- The percentage of students completing degrees did not change in a clearly patterned way.

Across the 2000 to 2015 period:

- The percentage of Hispanics 18 to 34 enrolled in college increased.
- The difference between the percentage of Hispanic and non-Hispanic Whites enrolled in college narrowed from 6.7 percentage points in 2000 to 1 percentage point in 2015.