

Changed financial aids and persistence: The case of CSUCI



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Purpose

2

Literature has well documented that financial aids are positively associated with persistence.

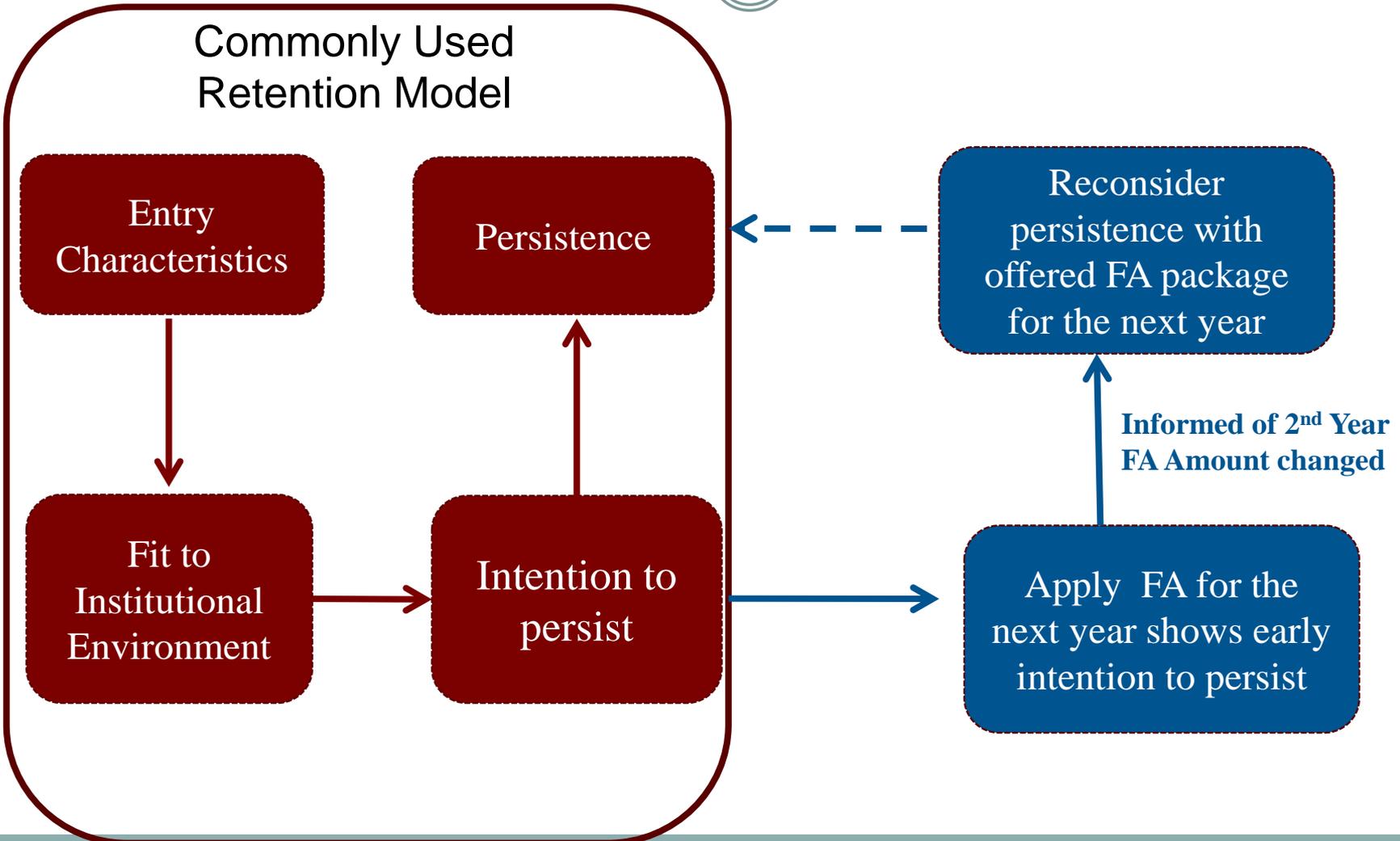
But, not all recipients sustain financial aids from the first year until graduation. When their financial aid package changes, what do we expect students to do? Leave or stay?

Purpose: Using three cohorts of students at CSUCI to investigate the association of changed financial aids and first year persistence at CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI).

Framework

3

Commonly Used Retention Model



Financial Aid and Tuition of CI

4

- 53.3% FTF **received** financial aid in first year.
- Average first-year total financial **aids amount** is \$6,361, with average \$5,455 of grants and \$7,106 loans.
- In 2010, the **cost of attendance** of CI was \$15,638 - \$22,434, the average EFC of Pell-eligible students was \$1,178.

This Study: Case of CSU Channel Islands

5

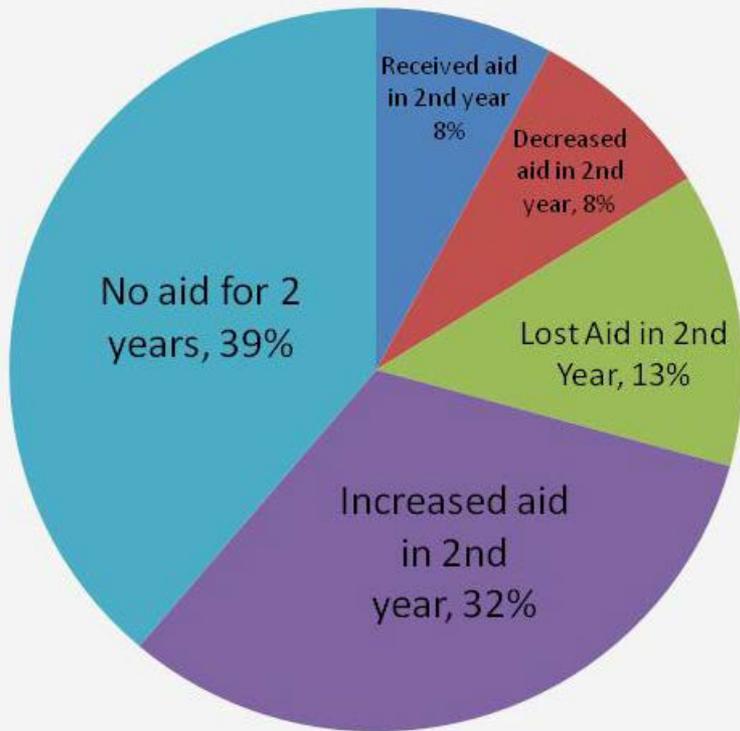
- CSUCI recruits around 500 freshmen each year, and finally expand the size of new cohort in 2011.
- Three cohorts in this study:
 - 2008 (531 First-time Freshmen)
 - 2009 (499 FTF)
 - 2010 (521 FTF)
 - Total 1,543 FTF in the sample
- Students are categorized into five groups depending on the amount of financial aids they received for 1st year and offered before 2nd year



Five FA Change Categories

6

Percentages of Five Categories of First-to-second Year Financial Aid Change



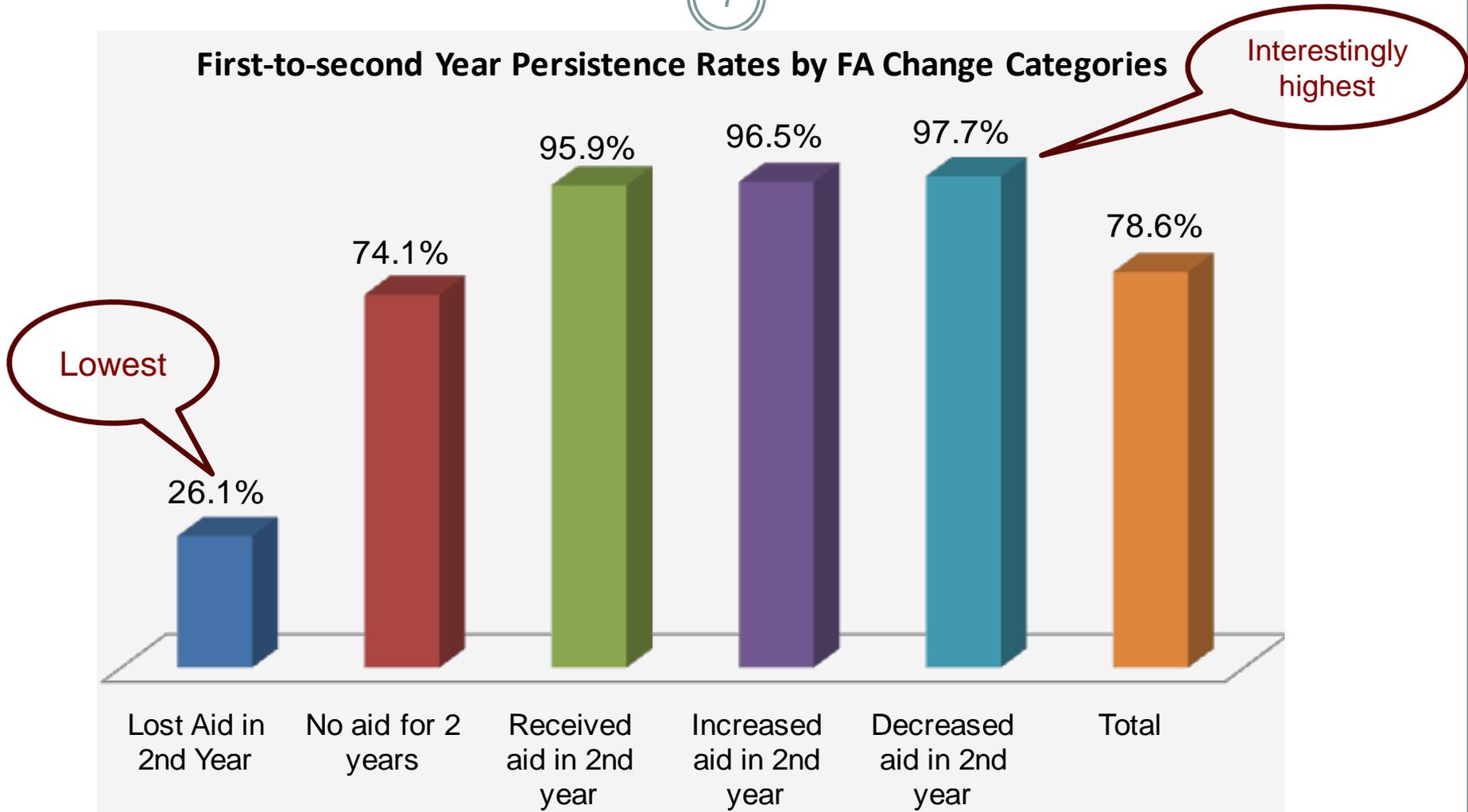
First-to-Second Year FA Change Categories	#	%
Received aid in 2nd year	121	8%
Decreased aid in 2nd year	128	8%
Lost Aid in 2nd Year	203	13%
Increased aid in 2nd year	492	32%
No aid for 2 years	599	39%
Total	1,543	100%

Note: Students who did not apply for the 2nd year were considered as no aid for the 2nd year.

FA Change Categories and First-year Persistence

7

First-to-second Year Persistence Rates by FA Change Categories



Lowest

Interestingly highest

Other Characteristics

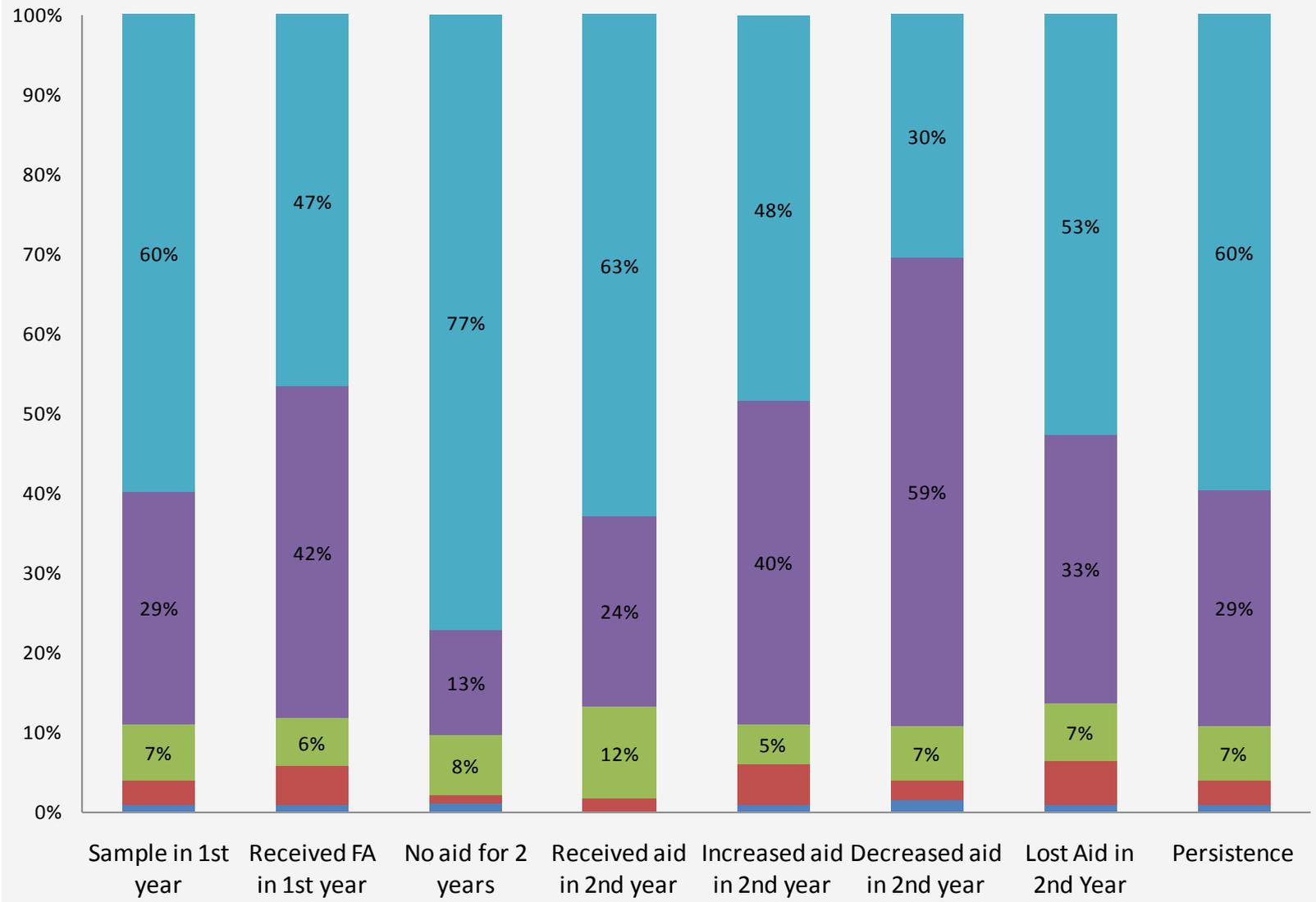
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- 68% are **females**
- 19% are self-identified **first-generation** students
- 79% declared a major in 1st year
- Academic **performance**
 - average HS_GPA = 3.2
 - average first-year GPA = 2.7
 - average first-year units = 25.7
- **Remediation** requirements
 - 62% need remediation, and 31% need both Math and English
 - After one year, 13.5% did not fulfill remediation requirement



Percentages of Sample, FA Categories, and Persistence by Ethnicity

■ Natv. Amr. ■ Afri.Amr. ■ Asian ■ Hispanic ■ White



Logistic Regression on First-year Persistence

	B	Sig.	Odds ratio	delta-p
<i>Compared to No Aid for Two Years</i>				
Received aid in 2nd year	1.45	**	4.27	9.4%
Increased aid in 2nd year	2.11	***	8.25	16.2%
Decreased aid in 2nd year	2.61	***	13.55	13.0%
Lost Aid in 2nd Year	-1.94	***	0.14	-32.1%
HS_GPA	0.03		1.03	0.0%
1st Year GPA	0.38	*	1.46	4.5%
1st Year Units	0.11	***	1.12	1.0%
Declared a Major	0.38		1.46	4.2%
First-Generation	0.08		1.08	1.5%
Low-Income	-0.18		0.83	-0.8%
Age	-0.16		0.85	-1.9%
Male	0.27		1.30	2.7%
<i>Compared to White</i>				
Hispanic	-0.06		0.94	0.6%
Afr. Amer.	0.43		1.54	4.4%
Asian	-0.21		0.81	-1.2%
Nat. Amer.	-0.01		0.98	-0.2%
Remediation Needed	0.60	**	1.83	5.9%
Fail to Complete				
Remediation in 1st Year	-1.22	***	0.29	-18.4%
Prob > Chi-square	0.00	***		
Pseudo R ² = 0.464				

Note: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Discussion

11

- Losing (or no applying) FA in 2nd year is a stronger indicator of withdrawal than No-Aid-for-Two-Years.
- Possible reasons for students not receiving FA in the 2nd year:
 - Family income changed – no longer eligible for grants
 - Relied on loans in 1st year, no longer willing to take more loans
 - ✦ 65% of Lost-aid-in-2nd-year relied on single type of aid – either grants or loans, which is higher than other two aid-recipients groups
 - No intention to re-enroll
 - ✦ FA application window for next year opens in January, no application from an aid-recipient could be an early indicator of withdrawal
- Fail to pass remediation courses shows negative impact on students, despite they have one more semester to make up.

Thank You!

Questions and Comments?

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