

Unpacking applicant race and ethnicity, part 1: trends in the detailed backgrounds of applicants over time

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Authors

Data Analytics and Research

Brian Heseung Kim*
Mark Freeman
Trent Kajikawa
Honeiah Karimi
Preston Magouirk

*corresponding author

Press inquiries

Emma Steele

esteele@commonapp.org

Introduction

Improving access, equity, and integrity in the college admissions process is the core mission of the Common App. Critical to understanding our progress in this mission is measuring how different students – especially those from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds – access and navigate the complex college application process.

In this first research brief of a two-part series, we use the detailed race and ethnicity data that first-year domestic applicants submit through the Common App to offer one of the most nuanced examinations of demographic trends in college applications to date. Whereas past analyses tend to use industry-standard race and ethnicity categories as defined by the [U.S. Office of Management and Budget and used by the U.S. Census Bureau](#) (e.g., exclusively White, Black or African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Two or More Races, etc.) that simplify and conceal nuance, we are able to unpack these groupings further: for example, applicants who identify as Asian are further invited to describe their background as Cambodian, Chinese, Malaysian, and so on, while applicants who identify as Black or African American can further describe their background as African, Caribbean, and more (see Appendix Figure A12 for a detailed illustration of this interface).

We use these uniquely detailed data to shed light on three critical questions:

1. How has the number of first-year applicants identifying as each detailed background within each standard racial/ethnic group changed over time?
2. What is the current composition of applicants' detailed backgrounds within each standard racial/ethnic group?
3. What is the composition of racial identities among Hispanic/Latinx and multiracial applicants?

In general, we find that examining nearly any data point at the typical level of standard racial/ethnic categories can conceal meaningful differences within those categories, differences which are only revealed at the more detailed racial/ethnic background level. For example, though we observe a 71% increase in the number of domestic Asian applicants between 2013–14 and 2021–22, this conceals the fact that the number of applicants who indicated “Other South Asia” (e.g., Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh) as their detailed background increased more than twice as quickly (+169%) over the same period – while the number of applicants who indicated “Japan” as their detailed background declined by 4%.

Overall, we argue that this approach to reporting racial and ethnic categories allows us to speak with far greater nuance about the changing college applicant pool and highlights the important detail and context that is lost within the standard racial/ethnic categories that are broadly used. These categories are often relied upon to imply a particular archetype of student, a short-hand to [estimate students’ contexts, circumstances, and resources](#). But what we offer here is strong evidence that the applicants grouped under these standard categories are both highly diverse and constantly changing in composition, limiting the usefulness of such categories and putting higher education leaders/practitioners at risk of relying on outdated assumptions to guide crucial decision-making about campus diversity, staffing needs for student supports, fiscal projections, and more. We also show that the composition of applicants’ detailed backgrounds within each standard race/ethnicity category varies meaningfully by region, as well. Ultimately, we hope this first of two briefs sparks valuable conversation about the shifting and multi-faceted composition of individuals aspiring to a college education in our country.

In our [second brief on this subject](#), released in tandem with this one, we dive deeper into the many implications of flattening applicants into standard racial/ethnic categories by examining how key indicators of individual resources (e.g., household income, low-income status), college readiness (e.g., standardized test scores, AP test reporting, GPA), and other application behaviors (e.g., applications sent, selectivity of target colleges) vary by applicants’ detailed backgrounds within each standard racial/ethnic group. As we show here with respect to the composition of applicants, we find surprising and meaningful differences in these key indicators within standard racial/ethnic categories. For example, we find that about 60% of Asian applicants indicating Other South Asia as their background received a Common App fee waiver (our proxy for low-income status) – more than 6.5 times the rate of Asian applicants indicating Japan as their background (9%). As a benchmark, the difference between these two groups within the Asian category is actually larger than the difference in fee waiver receipt rates between underrepresented racial minority (URM) applicants and non-URM applicants overall.

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Key findings

1. **Domestic applicants indicating India as their exclusive background are poised to become a stronger plurality of Asian applicants going forward.** They were one of the fastest growing Asian groups with 122% growth in applicants since the 2013–2014 season, and they were the largest group by proportion in the 2021–2022 season at 28% of Asian applicants.
2. **More generally, the composition of Asian applicants is likely to change meaningfully over the next few years.** Applicants indicating exclusively China, Japan, or Korea as their background were some of the slowest-growing groups among Asian applicants, while applicants indicating backgrounds from Other South Asia, Pakistan, and Vietnam were some of the fastest-growing.
3. Europe remains the most reported exclusive background among White applicants at 81.5% in the 2021–2022 season. That said, White applicants indicating two or more backgrounds were the fastest growing group since 2013–2014 (137% growth), followed by applicants indicating background in the Middle East (132%) – **suggesting growing diversification even within the White applicant pool.**
4. **U.S. African American was the most commonly reported exclusive background among Black or African American applicants in the 2021–2022 season at 69%.** Applicants indicating two or more backgrounds were also the fastest growing group for Black or African American applicants at 296% growth since 2013–2014, while applicants indicating background in the Caribbean were the slowest growing group (besides “Other”), at 60%.
5. Hispanic/Latinx applicants indicating two or more detailed backgrounds (195%), Other (151%), and Mexico (144%) each outpaced the already-rapid overall growth of Hispanic/Latinx applicants since 2013–2014 (129%). **Mexico was also the most commonly reported background in 2021–2022 at 36% of Hispanic/Latinx applicants, meaning it will likely become a stronger plurality of these applicants in the coming seasons if its growth trajectory continues.**
6. **In terms of the racial identities of Hispanic/Latinx applicants, those identifying also as White were just shy of the majority at 49.8% in the 2021–2022 season,** while 31% of Hispanic/Latinx applicants did not indicate any other racial identity. Even so, the fastest growing racial identities for these applicants since 2013–2014 were American Indian or Alaska Native (297%) and Black or African American (233%).
7. Applicants indicating Guam (25%), Hawaii (25%) and no detailed background (-1%) were the slowest growing groups among Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander applicants since 2013–2014. 32% of applicants in the 2021–2022 season indicated Other (excluding Philippines), 24% indicated Hawaii, and 18% indicated Samoa.
8. **Among American Indian or Alaska Native applicants, growth across the various tribal affiliations was relatively mixed since 2013–2014.** As of the 2021–2022 season, the majority of applicants were unaffiliated at 53% of applicants, while AZ Navajo (6%), OK

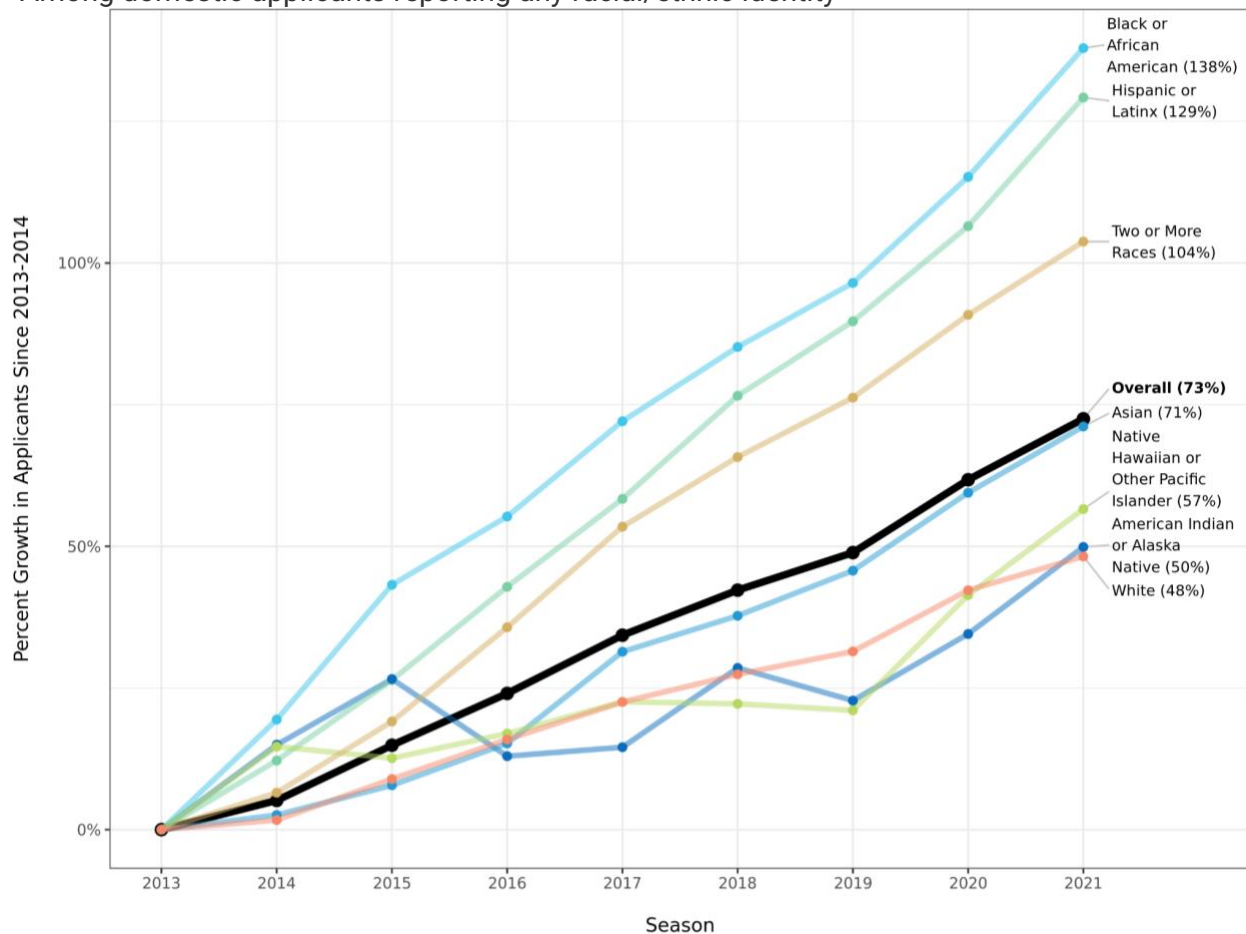
Cherokee (5%), and OK Choctaw (3%) represented the largest shares of affiliations listed.

9. **The vast majority of multiracial applicants identified partially as White at 89%, though roughly 55% of all multiracial applicants identified as at least one URM race.** Multiracial applicants identifying as White and Asian represented the most common multiracial identity overall.

Trends in standard applicant race and ethnicity over time

As a primer for our more nuanced analysis, Figure 1 below displays the growth in domestic applicants for each standard category of race/ethnicity since the 2013–2014 season. (We encourage readers to use the zoom function of their browsers as needed to enhance the readability of figures throughout this brief.) Each line represents the growth in the labeled population on the Common App since the 2013–2014 season, with the solid black line representing overall applicant growth over the same period. Importantly, we include only domestic applicants throughout this analysis to focus on race/ethnicity as thought of within the context of the United States.¹ Note also that all data displayed in figures throughout this brief are also available in a spreadsheet format more amenable to researchers and screen reader software [here](#) (access password: nyk9NcwS).

Figure 1. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by standard race/ethnicity categories
Among domestic applicants reporting any racial/ethnic identity



The overall domestic applicant pool has grown 73% since the 2013–2014 season, but this growth varies quite substantially across applicant racial/ethnic groups. For example, we have

¹ For this analysis, we focus on (1) applicants who were U.S. citizens, whether residing in the U.S. or abroad, and (2) applicants who were not U.S. citizens but still indicating residence in the U.S.

seen a 138% growth in Black or African American applicants over that same time period, compared to a 48% growth in White applicants – part of a more general trend of Common App applicant diversification that [we have remarked on in recent research](#).

Though these trends are informative on their own, and the use of industry-standard racial/ethnic categories facilitates crucial comparisons to population contexts (e.g., high school senior demographics, state-level demographics, etc.), they mask important compositional differences within each racial/ethnic category that we can speak to with far greater detail using the Common App applicant data. When applicants indicate their standard race/ethnicity on our platform (if they so choose), they are further invited to elaborate on their background for each indicated standard race/ethnicity from a set of non-exclusive options (see Appendix Figure A12 for an illustration of this interface). These data are what facilitate the detailed analyses that follow here.

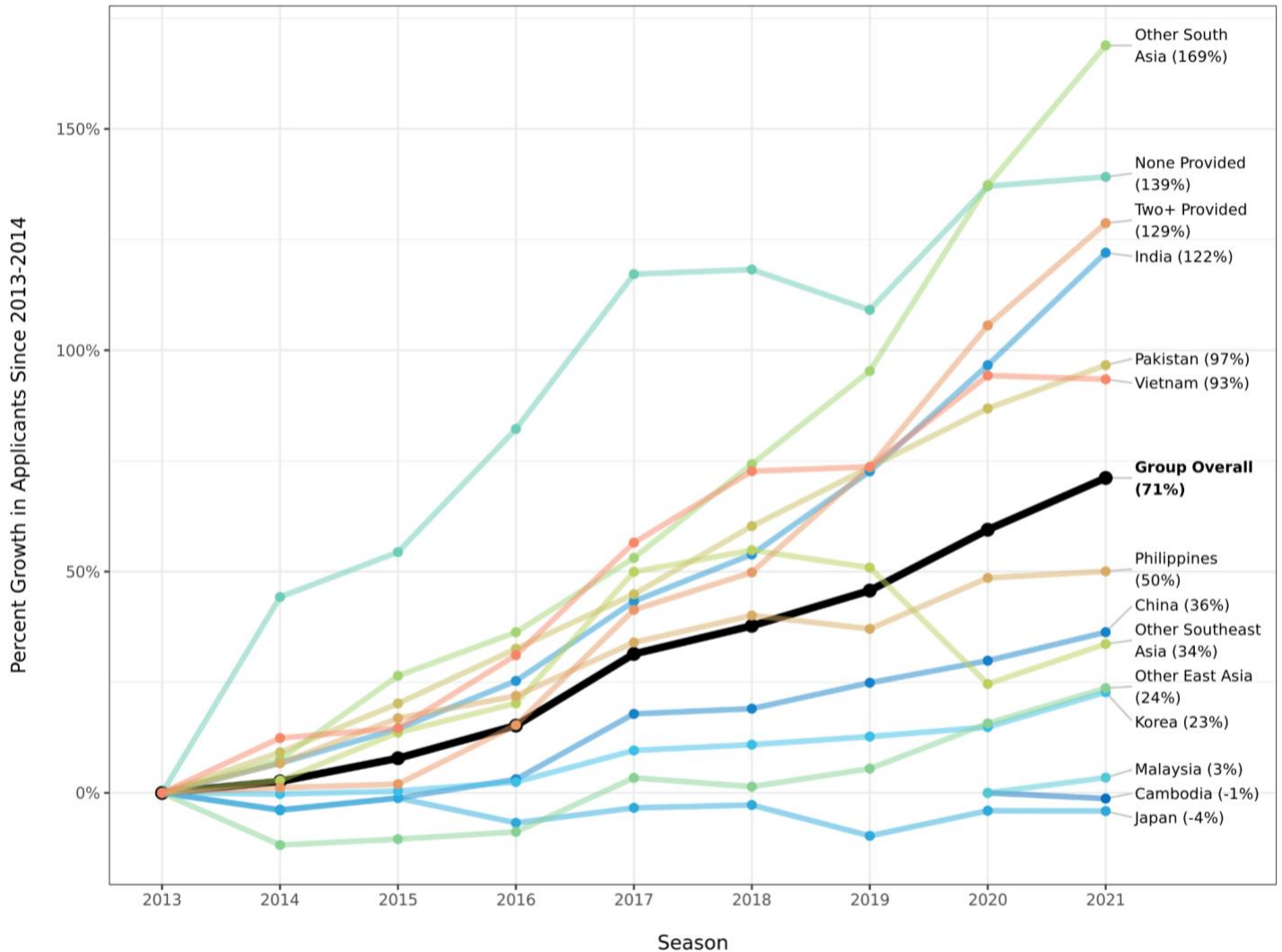
Adding nuance with detailed applicant racial/ethnic backgrounds

To begin our more detailed analysis, Figure 2 mirrors the plot format of Figure 1, but instead examines applicant growth trends over time by detailed backgrounds within the Asian applicant group (e.g., Vietnam, Pakistan, etc.).² The solid black line represents the growth for the overall Asian applicant group as a reference, replicating the Asian group trendline shown in Figure 1. Note that each indicated detailed background group implies the applicant selecting exclusively that background; we create a separate group for applicants selecting two or more detailed backgrounds for conceptual clarity.

This figure reveals that the 71% growth in Asian applicants since 2013–2014 as observed in Figure 1 was not a uniform shift across all Asian applicant populations. Applicants who indicated “Other South Asia” as their background increased the most rapidly over time, growing 169% since 2013–2014. On the other end of the spectrum, applicants indicating Japan as their background actually declined by 4% over that same period. Growth in applicants indicating the Philippines (50%), China (36%), and Korea (23%) also fell below the overall trend, while applicants indicating India (122%), Pakistan (97%), and Vietnam (93%) rose above it.

² Options for Cambodia and Malaysia were only made available starting in the 2020 season, likely contributing to the sharp decline for applicants indicating “Other Southeast Asia” backgrounds in the same year.

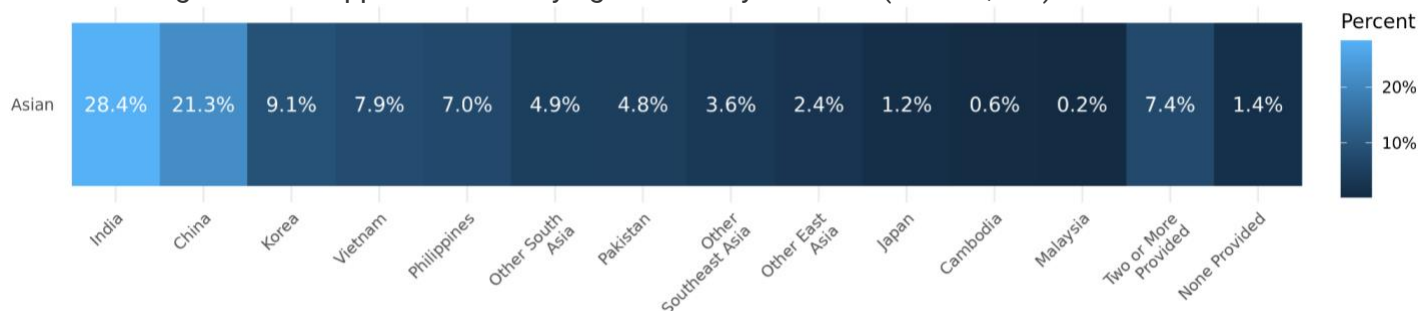
Figure 2. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by detailed Asian applicant backgrounds
Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Asian



While Figure 2 displays how quickly each detailed background group has grown since 2013–2014, this still raises the question as to what the composition of detailed backgrounds looks like among Asian applicants today. Figure 3 thus displays the proportion of Asian applicants identifying as each detailed background in the most recent 2021–2022 season. Each tile represents one detailed background option; tiles are ordered from largest to smallest (with the exception of Two or More Provided and None Provided, which appear at the far right regardless of size) and shaded accordingly.

Figure 3. Proportions of Asian applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021 – 2022

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Asian (n = 115,453)



Applicants indicating India as their exclusive background are the plurality of Asian applicants at 28.4%, followed closely by China at 21.3%. Given the longitudinal trends we observed in Figure 2, the proportion of Asian applicants indicating India as their background is poised to increase further, as this group is among one of the fastest-growing since 2013–2014. Similarly, the proportion of Asian applicants indicating China as their background may be poised to decrease.

To examine these trends in more detailed backgrounds across each standard category of applicant race and ethnicity, we have created parallel versions of Figures 2 and 3 for each racial/ethnic subgroup. We include these figures in the appendix and remark only on high-level insights from each group below for narrative concision in this report, but we invite readers to explore these rich data visualizations to learn more.

- White applicants (Appendix Figures A1 and A2) (n = 569,836)
 - **Key insights:** Europe remains the most frequently reported background among applicants at 81.5% in the 2021–2022 season. That said, White applicants indicating two or more backgrounds were the fastest growing group since 2013–2014 (137% growth), followed by applicants indicating background in the Middle East (132%) – suggesting growing diversification even within the White applicant pool.
- Black or African American applicants (Appendix Figures A3 and A4) (n = 139,588)
 - **Key insights:** Applicants indicating two or more backgrounds were the fastest growing group, at 296% growth since 2013–2014, while applicants indicating background in the Caribbean were the slowest at 60%. U.S. African American was the most commonly reported background among applicants in the 2021–2022 season, at 68.9%.
- Hispanic/Latinx applicants (Appendix Figures A5 and A6) (n = 193,851)
 - **Key insights:** Applicants indicating two or more backgrounds (195%), Other (151%), and Mexico (144%) each outpaced the already-rapid overall growth of Hispanic/Latinx applicants since 2013–2014 (129%). Mexico was the most commonly reported background in 2021–2022, at 36% of applicants. These results suggest that Mexico will become a stronger plurality of student background among Hispanic/Latinx applicants if the current trajectory continues.
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander applicants (Appendix Figures A7 and A8) (n = 1,763)

- **Key insights:** Applicants indicating Guam (25%), Hawaii (25%) and no background (-1%) were the slowest growing groups since 2013–2014. 32.1% of applicants in the 2021–2022 season indicated Other (excluding Philippines), 23.5% indicated Hawaii, and 17.9% indicated Samoa.
- American Indian or Alaska Native applicants (Appendix Figures A9, A10, and A11)³ (n = 2,752)
 - **Key insights:** Growth across tribal affiliations between 2013–2014 and 2017–2018 was generally mixed, though notably applicants indicating Choctaw (-28%) and Cherokee (-8%) were the only groups that declined in number over that time period. Growth between 2018–2019 and 2021–2022 was equally mixed, though applicants indicating affiliation with the OK Muscogee (Creek) Nation (76%), NC Eastern Cherokee (71%), and OK Chickasaw (56%) were the fastest growing. By the 2021–2022 season, 5.8% of applicants were affiliated with AZ Navajo, 5.2% with OK Cherokee, and 3.2% with OK Choctaw, though the majority of applicants were unaffiliated (or otherwise provided no enrollment information) at 52.8%.

Unpacking racial identity among Hispanic/Latinx and multiracial applicants

Another prominent shortcoming of the industry-standard race/ethnicity categories is that they completely conceal the racial identities of Hispanic/Latinx and multiracial individuals. This is because Hispanic/Latinx identity is recorded instead of racial identity, rather than in addition to it. Further, multiracial individuals are only recorded as having “Two or more races,” with no additional explanation as to what those races may be. This is of particular relevance given that Hispanic/Latinx and multiracial applicants are two of the fastest-growing racial/ethnic identities in our applicant pool, as demonstrated in Figure 1 (129% and 104% growth since 2013–2014, respectively, compared to the overall growth of 73%). Our data again allow us to examine these important dynamics in more detail among our applicant pool.

Figure 4 is formatted identically to Figure 3, but displaying the racial identities of individuals identifying as Hispanic/Latinx across each tile. Here we see that by far the most prominent racial identity for Hispanic/Latinx applicants is White (49.8%), followed by Hispanic/Latinx Only (i.e., no other racial identity provided; 31.4%) and Black or African American (9.1%).

³ Options for applicants’ tribal affiliations changed from broader categories (e.g., Cherokee) to detailed enrolled tribal affiliations (e.g., NC Eastern Cherokee and OK Cherokee) in the 2018–2019 season, and as such our longitudinal analysis is split over that timeframe. Note also that for visual clarity and to preserve applicant anonymity, we report only the statistics for the 10 largest tribal affiliations in the 2018–2022 period (as measured by enrolled applicant counts from the 2021–2022 season).

Figure 4. Racial identities of applicants identifying as Hispanic/Latinx
Among domestic applicants in the 2021–2022 season (n = 193,851)

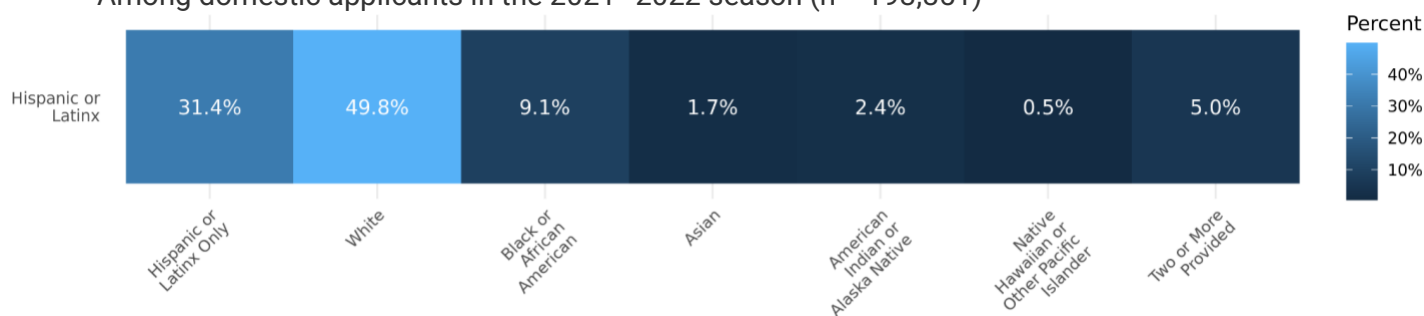


Figure 5 shows the growth in these groups over time, analogous to Figure 2. Interestingly, the fastest growing racial identities among Hispanic/Latinx applicants since 2013–2014 are those typically considered URM: American Indian or Alaska Native (297%), Black or African American (233%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (160%).⁴ This for the most part mirrors similar trends we see in the overall applicant pool (i.e., Figure 1), though with far more rapid growth among American Indian or Alaska Native applicants here. It also appears that while applicants identifying only as Hispanic/Latinx was one of the largest groups in the 2021–2022 season (per Figure 4), they have been the slowest-growing group over time (84%), suggesting that the Black or African American group growing nearly three times as quickly may eventually surpass them in size on our platform if these trends continue.

⁴ We use the term underrepresented minority (URM) in alignment with conventions employed by the [National Science Foundation](#). In this report, applicants identifying as Black or African American, Latinx, Native American or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander are classified as URM applicants.

Figure 5. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by Hispanic/Latinx applicant racial identities
Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Hispanic/Latinx

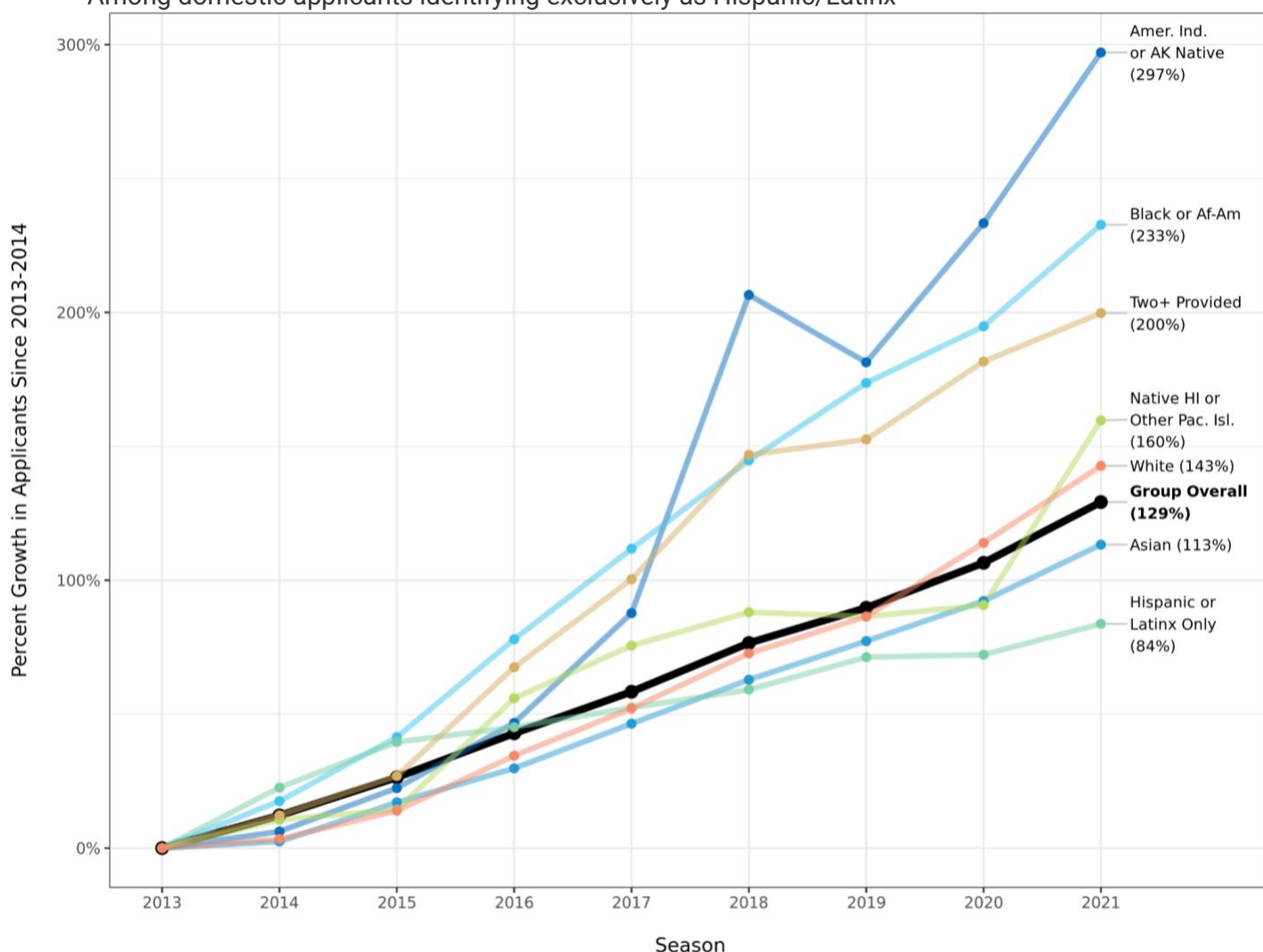


Figure 6 below examines the racial identities of multiracial applicants (excluding those who identify as Hispanic/Latinx, as they are included in Figures 4 and 5 above), where each tile represents a possible aspect of their racial identity per the typical standard racial/ethnic categories.⁵ The overwhelming majority of multiracial applicants identify partially as White at 89.3%, and a slight majority identify partially as Asian at 56.6%. Even so, a substantial proportion of multiracial applicants identify partially as Black (40.3%), American Indian or Alaska Native (14.1%), or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (6.6%) – populations typically considered underrepresented, even when the overall category of multiracial individuals is not. Overall, roughly 54.6% of all multiracial applicants identify as at least one URM race (not pictured).

⁵ Our data allow us to examine detailed backgrounds of multiracial students *within* these standard categories, though we do not include this in the present report given how complex that analysis becomes.

Figure 6. Racial identities among multiracial applicants in the 2021–2022 season

Among domestic applicants identifying as multiracial, excluding Hispanic/Latinx applicants (n = 56,099)

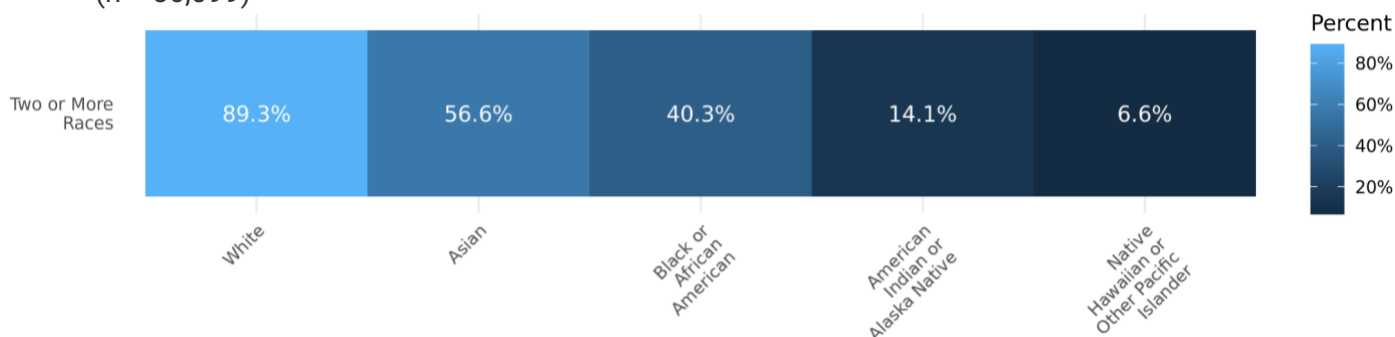
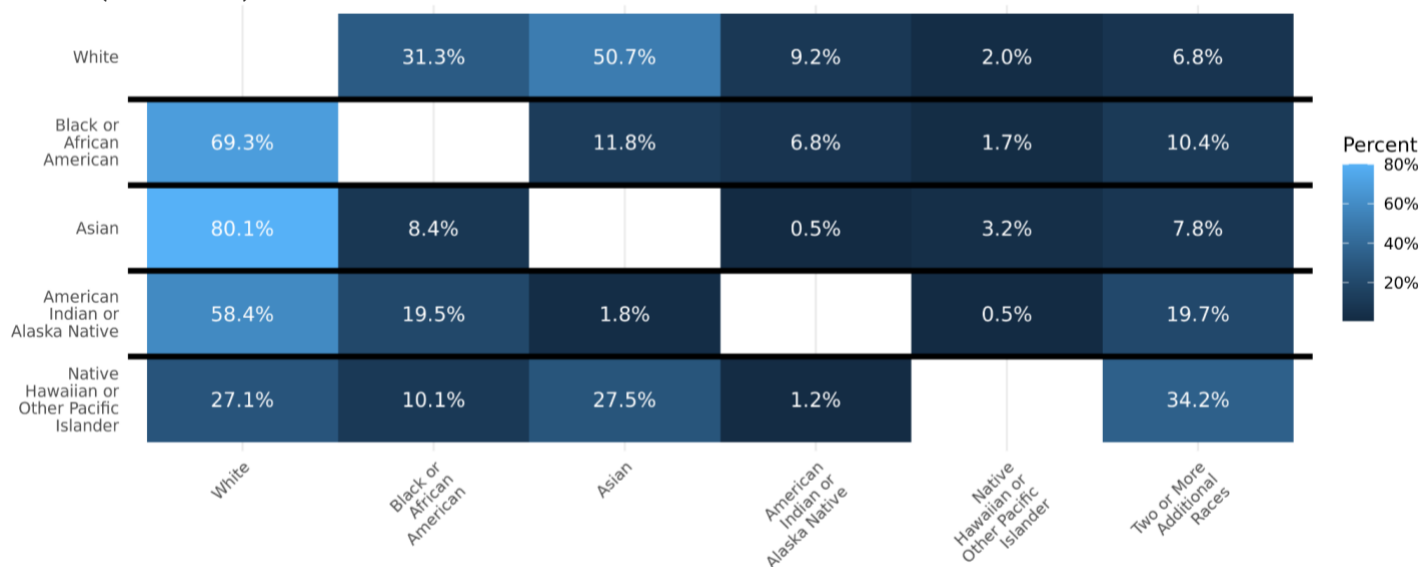


Figure 6 allows us to see the prevalence of individual identities, but it doesn't represent the extent to which certain identities tend to correspond with other identities among this population. Figure 7 examines this dynamic more directly, displaying the proportion of applicants identifying as each racial identity (in each row going left-to-right) that also identify as each other racial identity (each tile). Each row then sums to 100%. For example, reading along the top row focuses on applicants who identify partially as White. Among these applicants, 31.3% of them identify as only White and Black or African American, 50.7% of them identify as only White and Asian, and so on. The next row focuses on applicants who identify partially as Black or African American. Among these applicants, 69.3% of them identify as only Black or African American and White, 11.8% of them identify as only Black or African American and Asian, and so on.⁶ Note that applicants who identify as two or more additional races are categorized along the right side to maximize interpretability, though we recognize this is a consequential simplification.

⁶ Note that the applicants being counted in the tile representing only Black or African American and White in the second row (69.3%) are necessarily the same as those being counted in the tile representing only White and Black or African American in the first row (31.3%). The difference in the displayed percentages is due to the denominator that this count is being divided by for each row; many more students identify partially as White (as we show in Figure 6), which is why the percent displayed in the top row for White (31.3%) is far smaller than the percent displayed in the second row for Black or African American (69.3%).

Figure 7. Racial identity combinations among multiracial applicants in the 2021–2022 season
Among domestic applicants identifying as multiracial, excluding Hispanic/Latinx applicants
(n = 56,099)

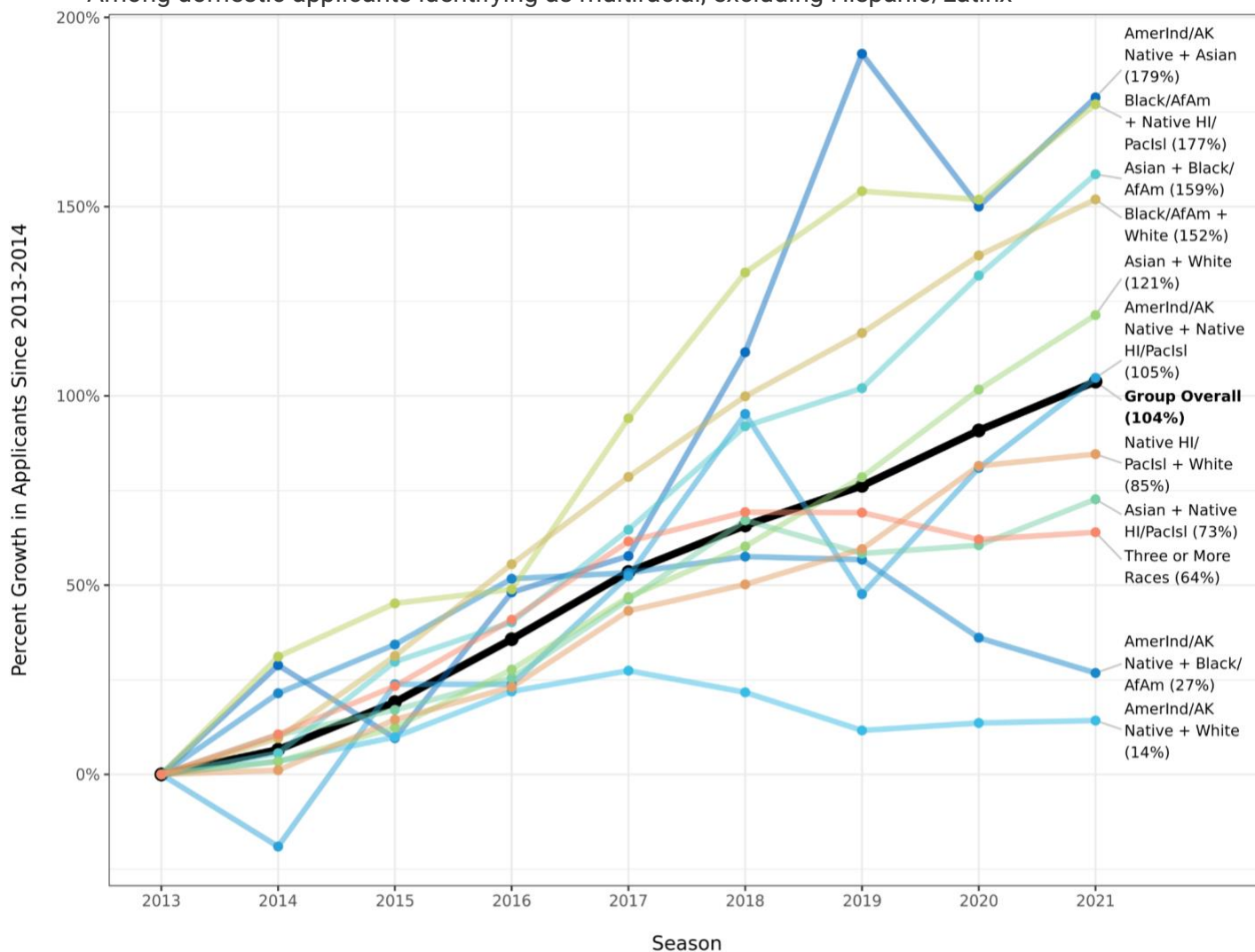


These findings reveal a few key insights. First, the overwhelming majority of applicants who identify partially as Asian also identify as White at 80.1%; this is also mirrored by the fact that the majority of applicants who identify partially as White also identify as Asian at 50.7% (see footnote 5 to explain the difference in denominators here). In other words, the plurality of multiracial applicants identify as White and Asian by a fairly wide margin. Applicants who partially identify as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander are actually the only group where the majority don't also identify as White, as Asian (27.5%) and Two or More Additional Races (34.2%) are slightly larger by proportion. Lastly, the incidence of identifying as two or more additional races is most common among those partially identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native (19.7%) and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (34.2%)

Finally, we can examine the growth in these multiracial combinations over time as we have for other groups in Figure 8. As we saw in the last plot, White and Asian applicants are the plurality of multiracial applicants, and they are also one of the fastest growing groups at 121% growth since 2013–2014. Interestingly, American Indian or Alaska Native and Asian applicants were one of the smallest groups, yet are the fastest growing at 179% since 2013–2014.

Figure 8. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 among specific multiracial applicant racial combinations

Among domestic applicants identifying as multiracial, excluding Hispanic/Latinx



Region-specific analyses of the composition of applicants' detailed backgrounds

As our final set of analyses, we have also included in the appendix region-specific analyses of the composition of detailed backgrounds for each standard race/ethnicity group (e.g., for applicants in the Midwest, separately from applicants in New England, and so on). We provide a separate table for each standard race/ethnicity category in Appendix Tables A1–A8. We expect these data will be of particular interest to admissions officers and enrollment managers at our member institutions.

Perhaps as to be expected, these analyses reveal that there is sometimes extreme geographic variation in which detailed backgrounds are most prevalent for each standard race/ethnicity

group. As an example, Appendix Table A1 shows that Asian applicants indicating background in China make up the plurality of Asian applicants in New England at 27.7%, slightly higher than Asian applicants indicating background in India in the same region at 25.1%. However, this dynamic is reversed dramatically in the Southwest, where Asian applicants indicating background in China make up only 13.9% of Asian applicants, whereas Asian applicants indicating background in India make up 39%.

Conclusion

The prior analyses all help us better understand the composition of applicants using the Common App both as of this last season, and over time. They add important nuance and context about the diversification of our applicant pool. One of the most important findings here is that there exist important differences in applicant growth over time within each standard racial/ethnic category, and we should not assume that growth in these standard racial/ethnic categories is experienced evenly across the detailed backgrounds within these categories.

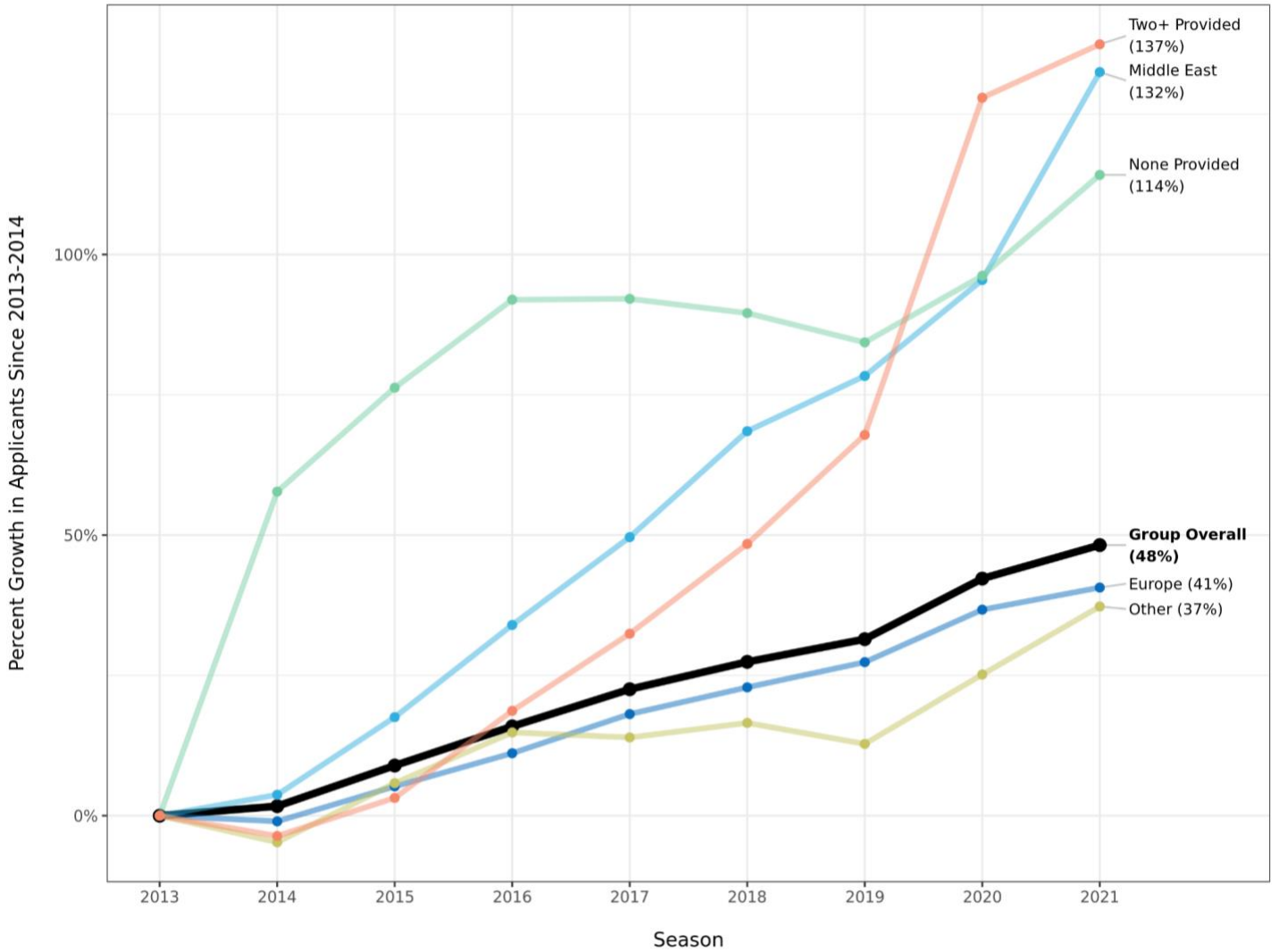
Moreover, these findings emphasize that the composition of each standard racial/ethnic category is constantly changing and shifting over time in meaningful ways, and there is often rich diversity within these categories as well. In other words, it is critical for higher education leaders to be cautious about what information they infer from these categories when it comes to applicants' circumstances, contributions, and needs. Our [second brief in this series](#), released in tandem with this one, examines this issue more directly by looking at how key indicators of college readiness, individual resources, and application behaviors differ across these detailed racial/ethnic backgrounds.

In sum, we offer this first set of comprehensive analyses to the public as a means of advancing the important and complex conversations occurring in higher education around student race and ethnicity, and we look forward to engaging in more of these conversations going forward.

Appendix

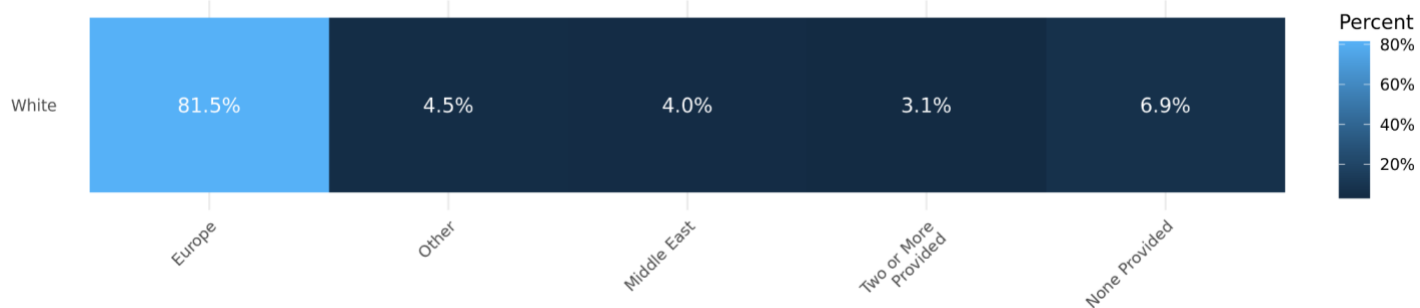
Appendix Figure A1. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by detailed White applicant backgrounds

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as White



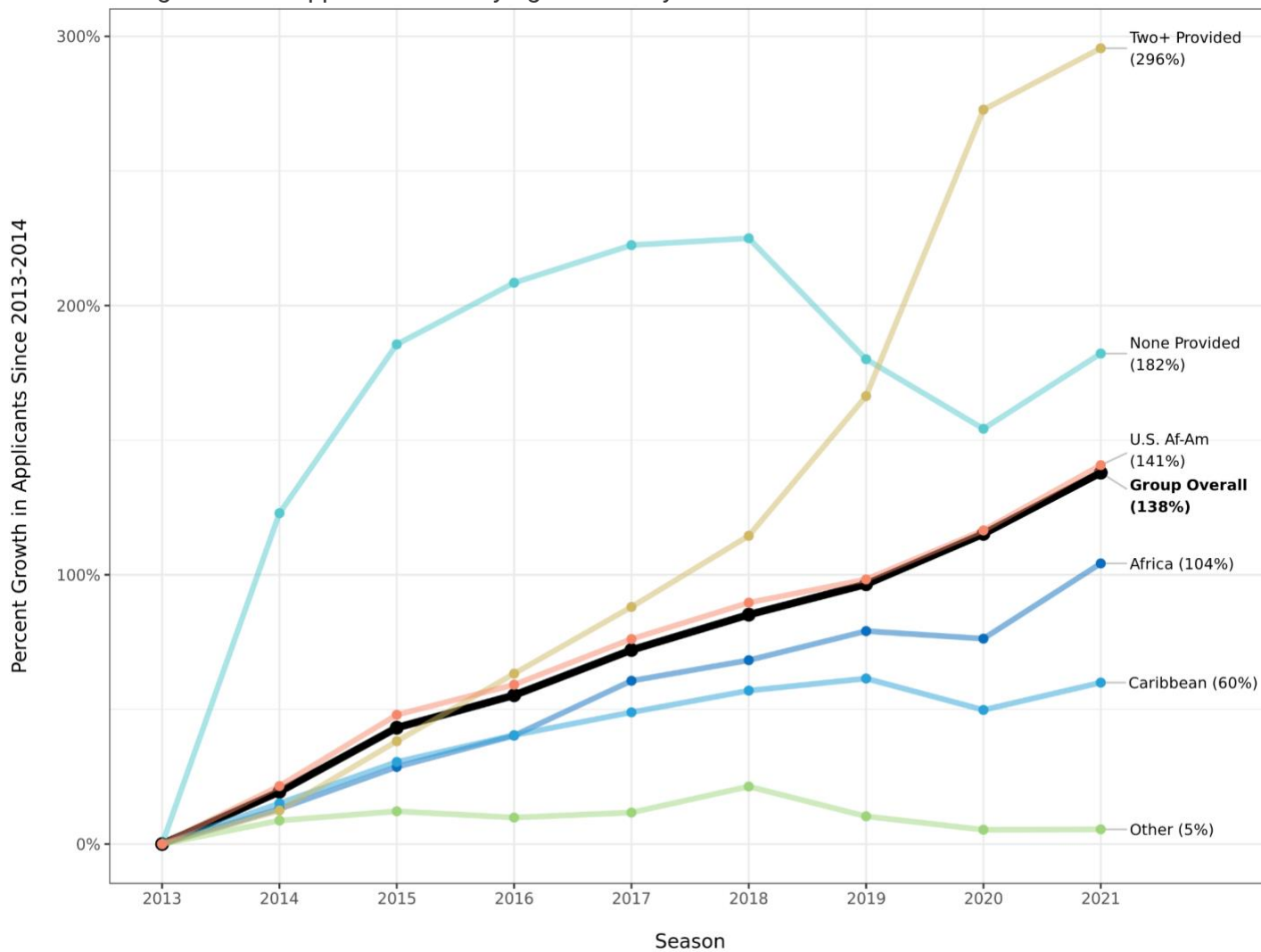
Appendix Figure A2. Proportions of White applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as White (n = 569,836)



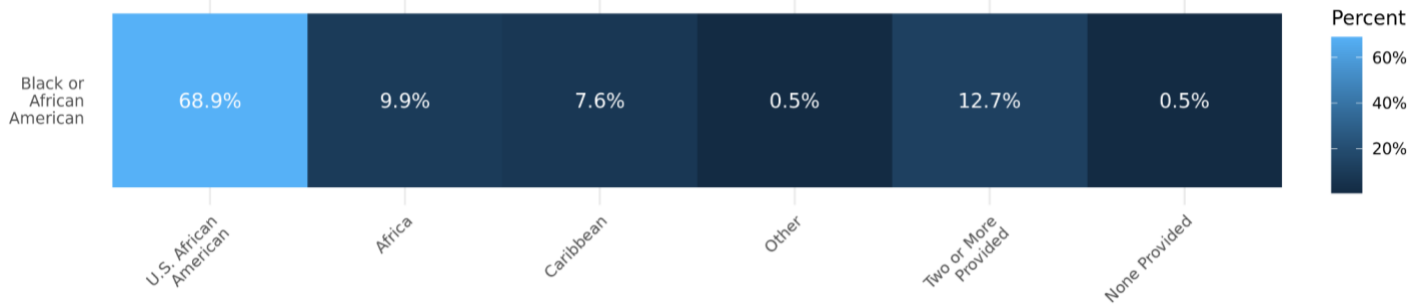
Appendix Figure A3. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by detailed Black or African American applicant backgrounds

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Black or African American



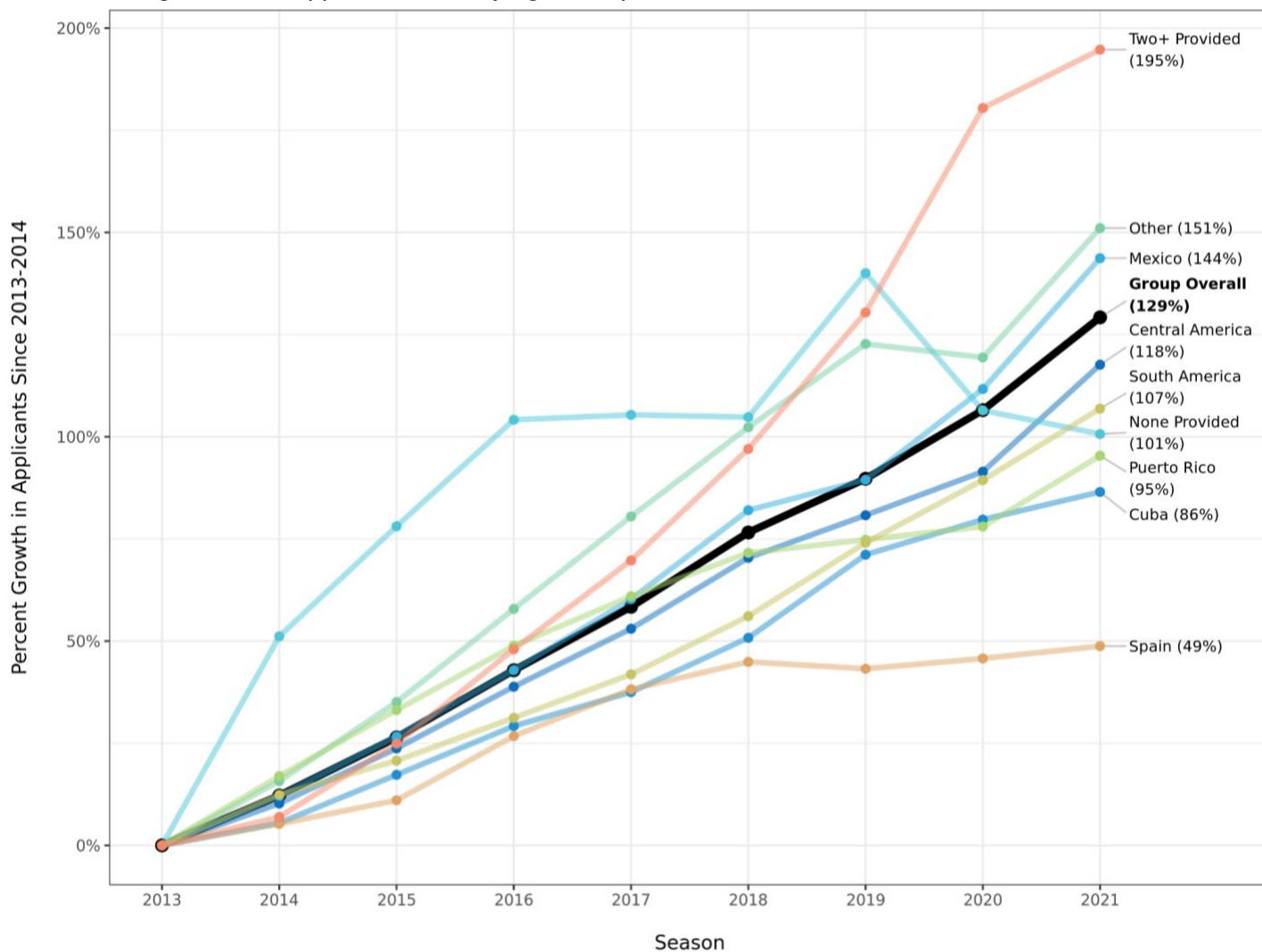
Appendix Figure A4. Proportions of Black or African American applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Black or African American (n = 139,588)



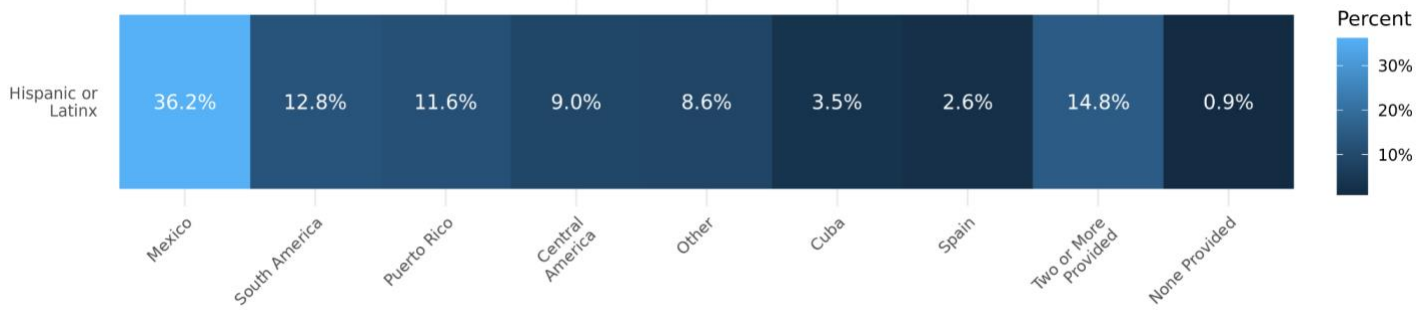
Appendix Figure A5. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by detailed Hispanic/Latinx applicant backgrounds

Among domestic applicants identifying as Hispanic/Latinx



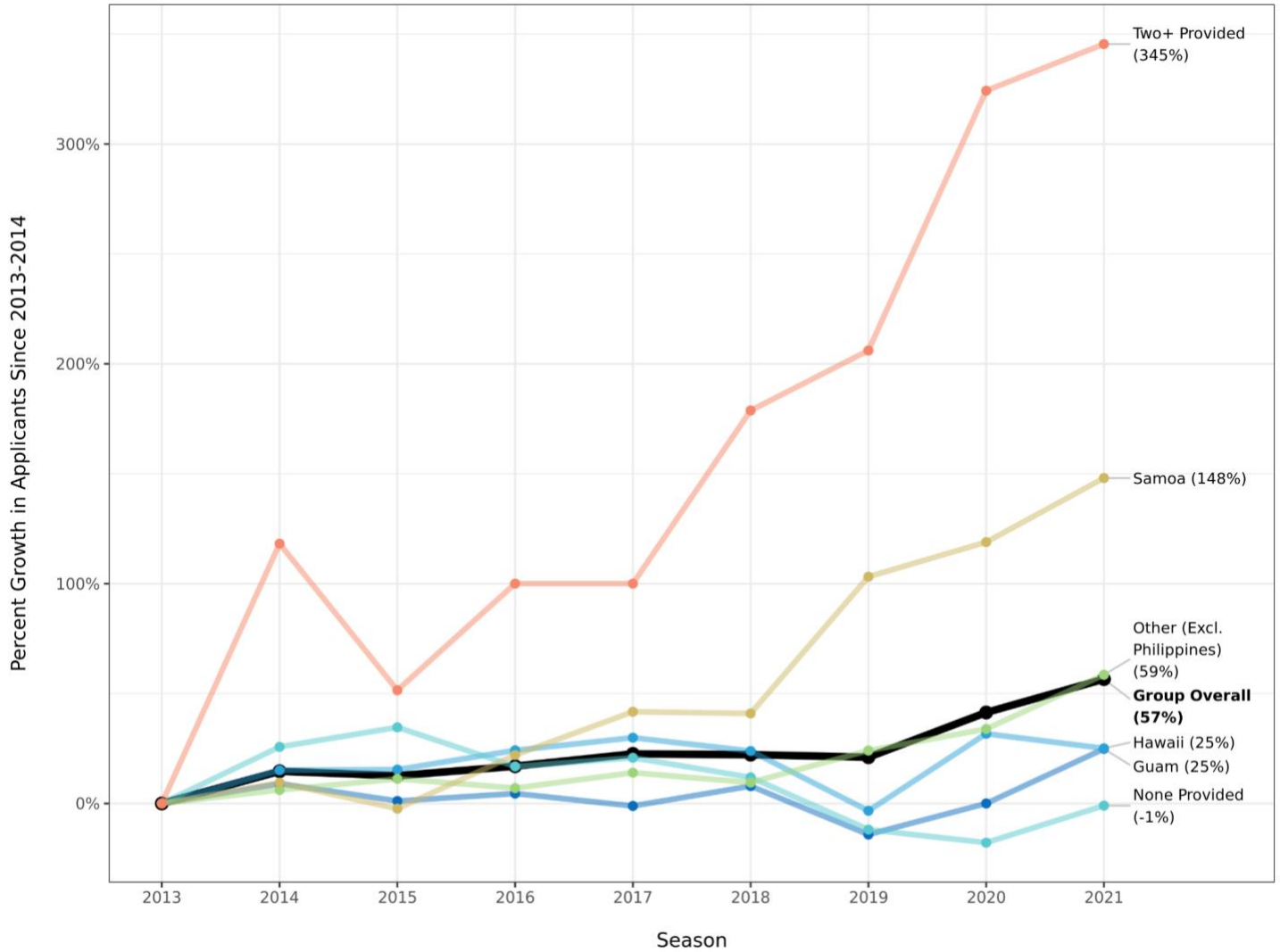
Appendix Figure A6. Proportions of Hispanic/Latinx applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022

Among domestic applicants identifying Hispanic/Latinx (n = 193,851)



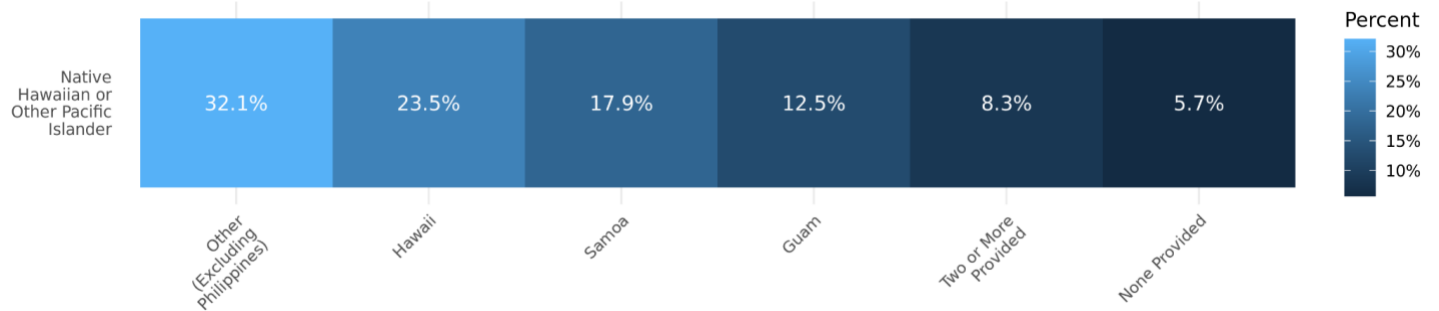
Appendix Figure A7. Applicant growth since 2013–2014 by detailed Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander applicant backgrounds

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander



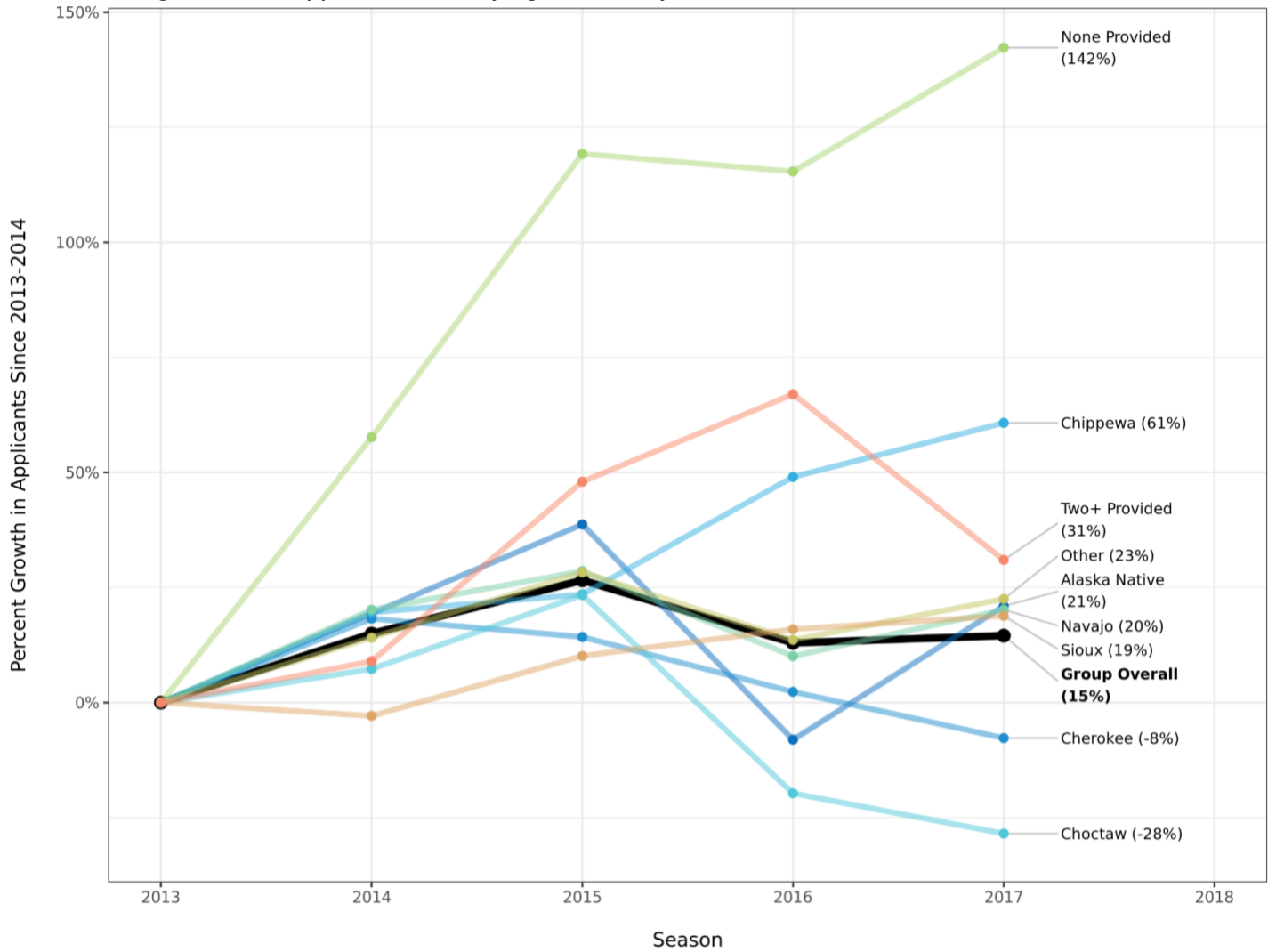
Appendix Figure A8. Proportions of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (n = 1,763)



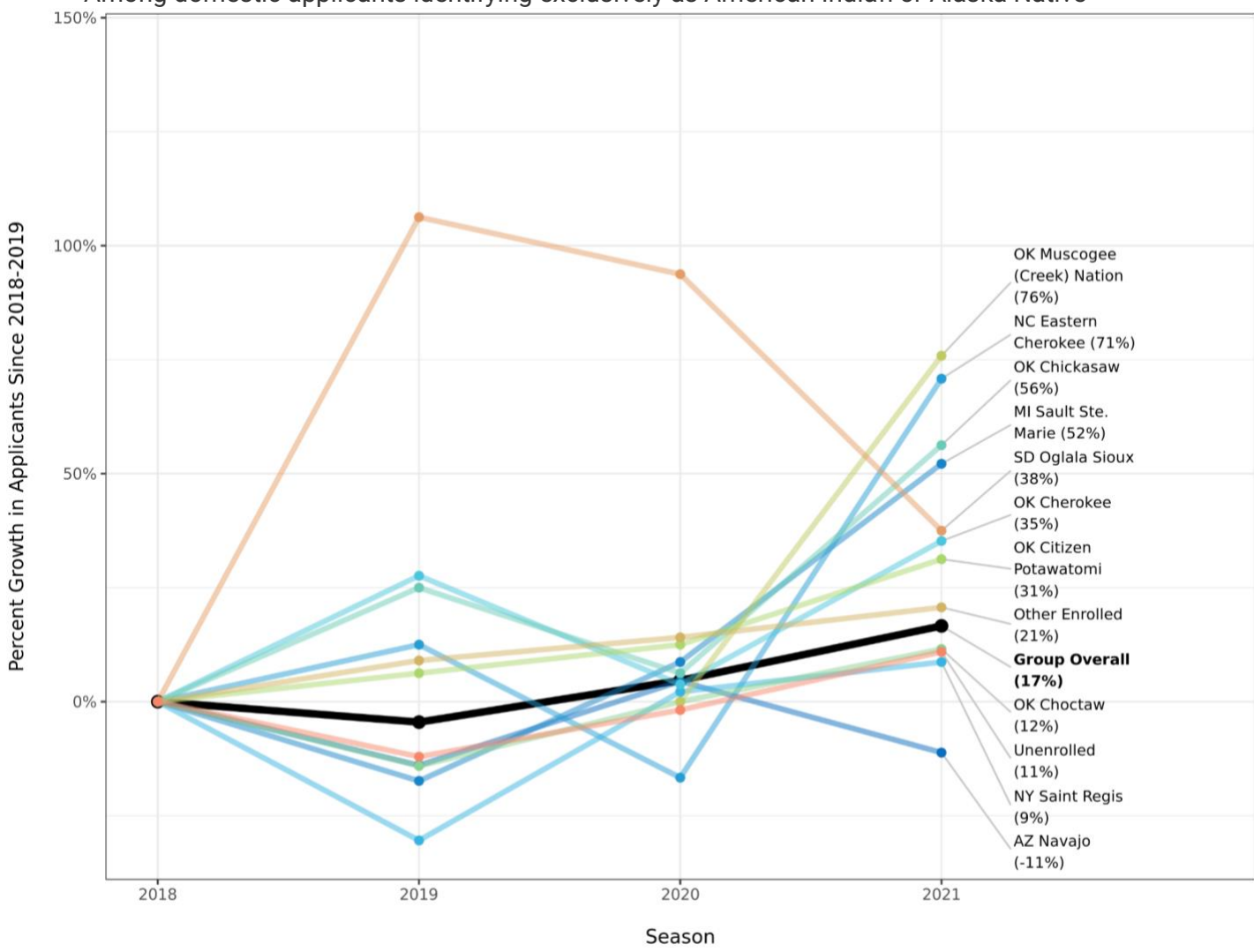
Appendix Figure A9. Applicant growth between 2013–2014 and 2017–2018 by American Indian or Alaska Native tribal affiliation

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as American Indian or Alaska Native



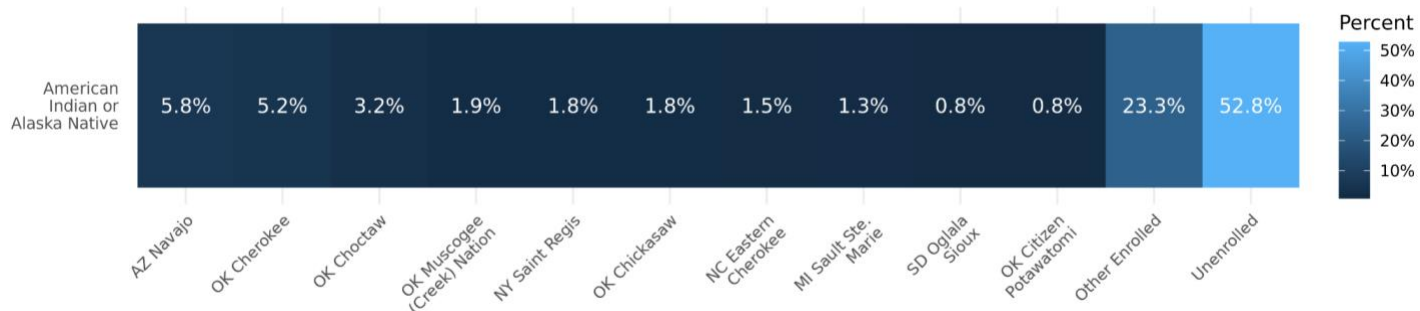
Appendix Figure A10. Applicant growth between 2018–2019 and 2021–2022 by American Indian or Alaska Native tribal affiliation

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as American Indian or Alaska Native



Appendix Figure A11. Proportions of American Indian or Alaska Native applicants identifying with each tribal affiliation in 2021–2022

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as American Indian or Alaska Native
(n = 2,752)



Appendix Figure A12. Illustration of Common App Detailed Background Question Interface

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Are you Hispanic or Latino/a/x?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Clear answer</p> <p>Which best describes your Hispanic or Latino/a/x background? (You may select one or more)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Central America</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cuba</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mexico</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> South America</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> | <p>Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please indicate how you identify yourself. (You may select one or more)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black or African American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White</p> <p>Which best describes your Black or African American background? (You may select one or more)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. / African American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Africa</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> |
|--|---|

Notes: Questions in the left panel appear before questions in the right panel in the applicant interface. The detailed background questions only appear after a corresponding selection is made for the preceding race/ethnicity question. For example, “Which best describes your Hispanic or Latino/a/x background” question only appears if applicants select “Yes” to the prior “Are you Hispanic or Latino/a/x?” question. Similarly, “What best describes your Black or African American background?” only appears if applicants select “Black or African American” to the preceding “...please indicate how you identify yourself” question. Finally, students may select multiple races in the “...please indicate how you identify yourself” question, and so a corresponding background question will appear for each selection made (e.g., a background question for Asian if it is selected, in addition to a background question for White if it is selected).

Appendix Table A1. Proportions of Asian applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022 by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Asian (n = 115,453)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Asian | Cambodia | 0.3% | 0.4% | 3.1% | 0.6% | 0.3% | 0.6% |
| Asian | China | 26.8% | 18.7% | 27.7% | 15.7% | 13.9% | 22.0% |
| Asian | India | 27.1% | 32.6% | 25.1% | 32.6% | 39.0% | 21.9% |
| Asian | Japan | 0.5% | 0.8% | 0.7% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 2.6% |
| Asian | Korea | 8.3% | 7.0% | 5.6% | 9.0% | 6.3% | 11.6% |
| Asian | Malaysia | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| Asian | Other East Asia | 1.8% | 2.0% | 1.7% | 1.3% | 1.5% | 3.5% |
| Asian | Other South Asia | 9.0% | 4.2% | 4.4% | 4.9% | 3.5% | 1.8% |
| Asian | Other Southeast Asia | 3.1% | 6.8% | 3.3% | 3.5% | 2.3% | 2.6% |
| Asian | Pakistan | 6.2% | 5.6% | 4.4% | 5.4% | 8.1% | 1.4% |
| Asian | Philippines | 6.1% | 8.1% | 3.4% | 6.3% | 4.2% | 10.0% |
| Asian | Vietnam | 3.6% | 6.4% | 11.3% | 13.1% | 12.8% | 8.4% |
| Asian | None Provided | 1.7% | 1.4% | 1.9% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| Asian | Two or More Provided | 5.2% | 5.7% | 7.5% | 5.9% | 6.1% | 12.0% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A2. Proportions of White applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022 by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as White (n = 569,836)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| White | Europe | 79.9% | 82.3% | 80.7% | 81.3% | 82.9% | 84.0% |
| White | Middle East | 4.2% | 4.1% | 2.9% | 3.5% | 4.1% | 4.2% |
| White | Other | 5.1% | 4.0% | 5.4% | 4.8% | 4.2% | 3.3% |
| White | None Provided | 7.4% | 7.3% | 7.5% | 7.6% | 5.9% | 4.5% |
| White | Two or More Provided | 3.4% | 2.3% | 3.4% | 2.8% | 2.8% | 4.1% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A3. Proportions of Black or African American applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022 by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Black or African American (n = 139,588)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Black or African American | Africa | 10.5% | 10.5% | 15.5% | 5.9% | 12.0% | 15.4% |
| Black or African American | Caribbean | 12.6% | 1.0% | 20.0% | 6.4% | 1.5% | 1.9% |
| Black or African American | Other | 0.5% | 0.4% | 1.7% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.5% |
| Black or African American | U.S. African American | 59.0% | 80.0% | 41.9% | 76.6% | 75.5% | 68.8% |
| Black or African American | None Provided | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.4% |
| Black or African American | Two or More Provided | 16.8% | 7.7% | 20.3% | 10.3% | 10.3% | 13.0% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A4. Proportions of Hispanic/Latinx applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022 by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying as Hispanic/Latinx (n = 193,851)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Central America | 12.0% | 5.3% | 12.7% | 10.6% | 5.7% | 6.3% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Cuba | 2.4% | 1.2% | 1.8% | 10.9% | 1.0% | 1.0% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Mexico | 11.6% | 62.4% | 7.5% | 19.5% | 63.0% | 62.1% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Other | 17.3% | 2.8% | 17.7% | 7.7% | 2.7% | 2.8% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Puerto Rico | 22.1% | 7.3% | 24.8% | 11.5% | 2.4% | 2.3% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | South America | 17.1% | 6.2% | 19.4% | 19.6% | 5.9% | 5.5% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Spain | 2.1% | 1.7% | 2.0% | 2.0% | 3.1% | 4.0% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | None Provided | 1.0% | 1.1% | 1.0% | 0.6% | 1.4% | 0.9% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Backgrounds) | Two or More Provided | 14.5% | 11.9% | 13.2% | 17.5% | 14.8% | 15.2% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A5. Racial identities of applicants identifying as Hispanic/Latinx by applicant region

Among domestic applicants in the 2021–2022 season (n = 193,851)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | American Indian or Alaska Native | 2.0% | 3.4% | 1.6% | 1.7% | 3.2% | 3.0% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | Asian | 1.5% | 1.2% | 1.1% | 1.3% | 1.4% | 2.9% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | Black or African American | 17.2% | 4.9% | 16.9% | 8.2% | 3.6% | 3.5% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.7% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.6% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | White | 38.7% | 46.6% | 43.3% | 62.4% | 67.2% | 46.3% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | Hispanic or Latinx Only | 34.9% | 39.5% | 30.9% | 20.9% | 20.5% | 37.6% |
| Hispanic or Latinx (Races) | Two or More Provided | 5.1% | 3.9% | 5.5% | 5.2% | 3.7% | 6.1% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A6. Proportions of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander applicants identifying with each detailed background in 2021–2022 by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (n = 1,763)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Guam | 8.4% | 15.4% | N/A | 18.0% | 19.1% | 12.8% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Hawaii | 11.2% | 17.9% | 16.3% | 24.0% | 13.2% | 29.5% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Other (Excluding Philippines) | 52.4% | 34.2% | 61.2% | 34.5% | 50.0% | 26.9% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Samoa | 6.3% | 10.3% | N/A | 9.0% | 13.2% | 17.1% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | None Provided | 17.5% | 15.4% | N/A | 12.0% | N/A | 2.6% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | Two or More Provided | 4.2% | 6.8% | N/A | 2.5% | N/A | 11.2% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A7. Proportions of American Indian or Alaska Native applicants identifying with each tribal affiliation in 2021–2022 by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying exclusively as American Indian or Alaska Native (n = 2,752)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| American Indian or Alaska Native | AZ Navajo | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 15.3% | 12.3% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | MI Sault Ste. Marie | N/A | 5.7% | N/A | 0.9% | N/A | N/A |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | NC Eastern Cherokee | N/A | N/A | N/A | 6.5% | N/A | N/A |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | NY Saint Regis | 8.4% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | OK Cherokee | N/A | 1.3% | N/A | 3.4% | 19.1% | 4.0% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | OK Chickasaw | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 6.8% | 2.2% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | OK Choctaw | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1.6% | 10.3% | 4.2% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | OK Citizen Potawatomi | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1.2% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | OK Muscogee (Creek) Nation | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1.3% | 6.2% | 2.2% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | Other Enrolled | 10.8% | 32.3% | 27.8% | 13.3% | 19.1% | 37.7% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | SD Oglala Sioux | N/A | 4.0% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | Unenrolled | 75.7% | 53.2% | 64.8% | 67.1% | 21.3% | 38.6% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.

Appendix Table A8. Racial identity combinations among multiracial applicants in the 2021–2022 season by applicant region

Among domestic applicants identifying as multiracial, excluding Hispanic/Latinx applicants (n = 56,099)

| Standard Race Ethnicity Group | Detailed Background Group | Mid-Atlantic | Midwestern | New England | Southern | Southwestern | Western |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | AmerInd/AK Native + Asian | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | AmerInd/AK Native + Black/AfAm | 3.7% | 2.5% | 3.1% | 3.9% | 3.1% | 1.0% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | AmerInd/AK Native + Native HI/PacIsl | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | AmerInd/AK Native + White | 5.4% | 10.0% | 7.4% | 8.8% | 18.0% | 7.1% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Asian + Black/AfAm | 7.2% | 3.0% | 2.8% | 5.7% | 4.8% | 3.8% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Asian + Native HI/PacIsl | 1.0% | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 1.1% | 4.5% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Asian + White | 42.5% | 42.4% | 45.6% | 37.4% | 40.6% | 56.4% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Black/AfAm + Native HI/PacIsl | 0.7% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 0.6% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Black/AfAm + White | 32.8% | 33.4% | 33.4% | 34.4% | 23.5% | 14.2% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Native HI/PacIsl + White | 1.0% | 1.5% | 1.3% | 1.5% | 1.4% | 3.2% |
| Two or More Races (Excluding Hispanic or Latinx) | Three or More Races | 5.3% | 5.5% | 4.8% | 6.4% | 6.2% | 8.8% |

Note: Each cell displays the proportion of applicants in the indicated standard race/ethnicity group in that region who identify as the detailed background group. As such, each regional column sums to 100% with exceptions for rounding and suppressed cells. Cell sizes representing fewer than 5 applicants are suppressed.