

Huge Progress Stalled: Racial Gaps at 12th Grade are Smaller than in the 1970s, but Remain Large, even among the Children of College Educated Parents.

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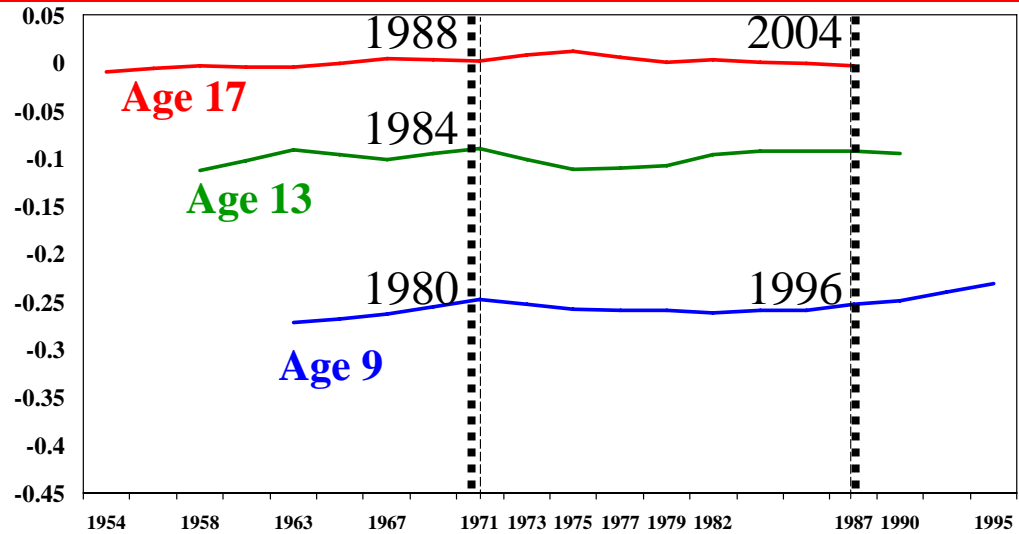
**2nd Annual Conference of the Achievement Gap Initiative
at Harvard University**

June 19, 2006

Standardized NAEP scores for white 9, 13 and 17-year olds.

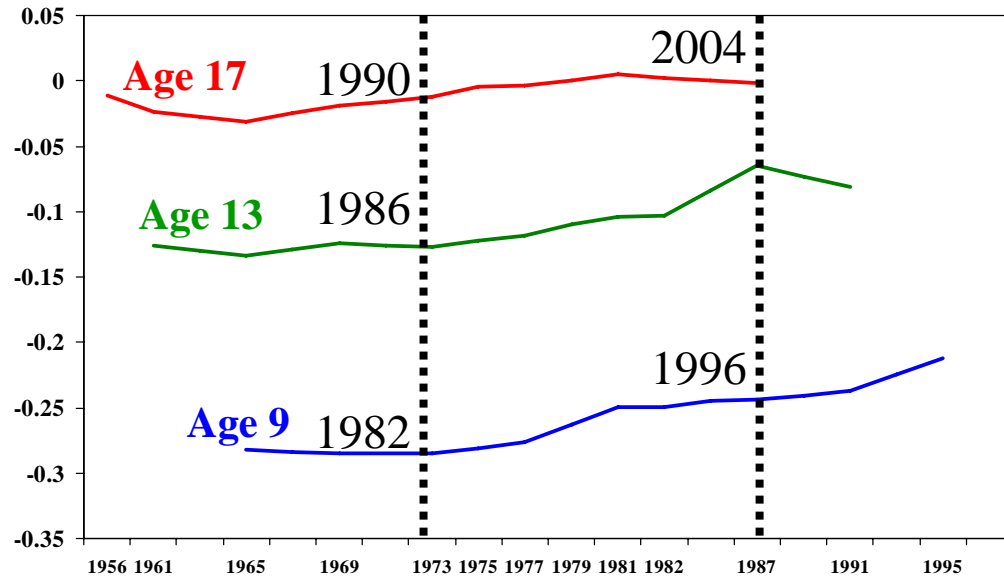
(Distance below 17-year old whites' scores, as a fraction of white 17-Year olds' scores in 1996)

Reading



WHITES

Math



*Note: The horizontal axis is the approximate birth year.

Standardized NAEP reading scores for Hispanic 9, 13 and 17-year olds.

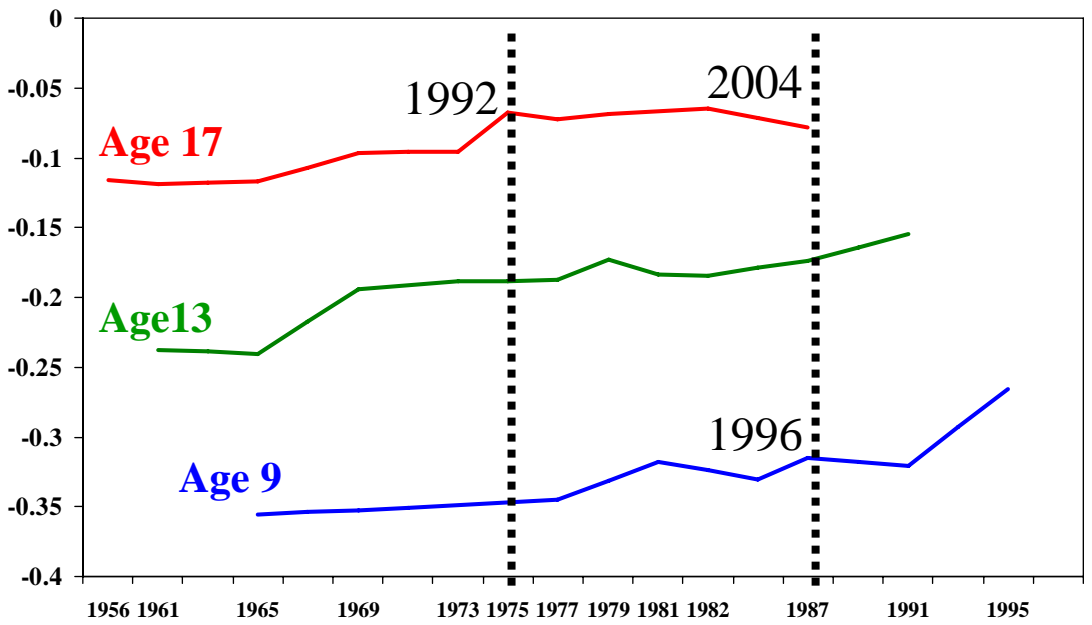
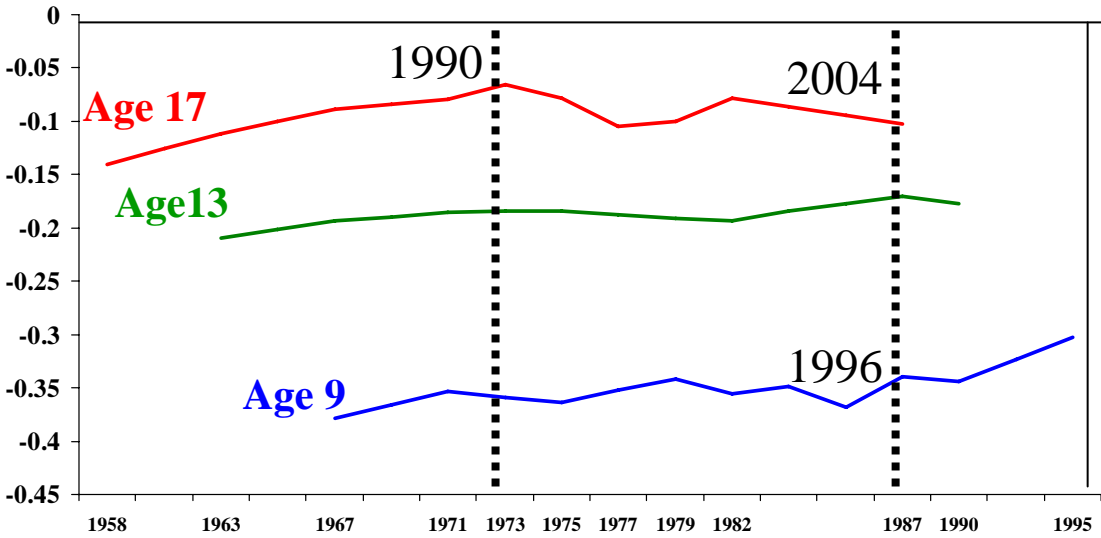
(Distance below 17-Year old whites' Scores, as a fraction of white 17-Year olds' scores in 1996)

Reading

HISPANICS

Math

*Note: The horizontal axis is the approximate birth year.



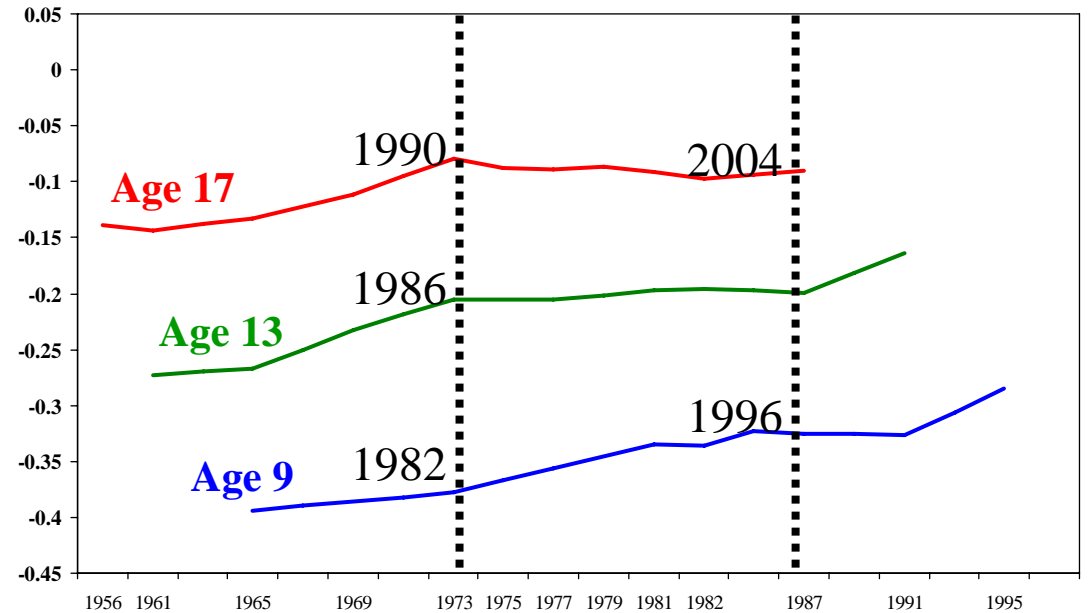
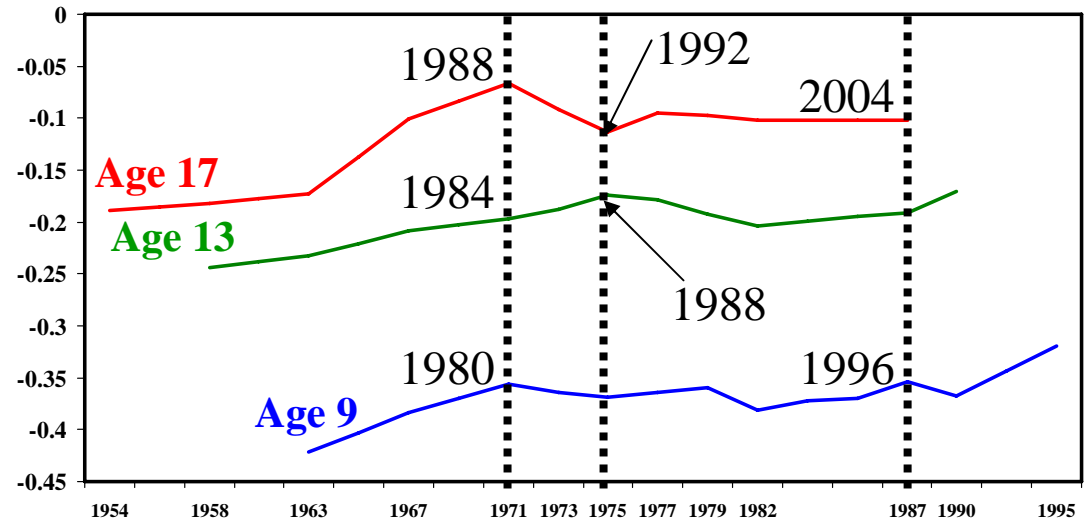
Standardized NAEP scores for black 9, 13 and 17-year olds.

(Distance below 17-year old whites' scores, as a fraction of white 17-Year olds' scores in 1996)

Reading

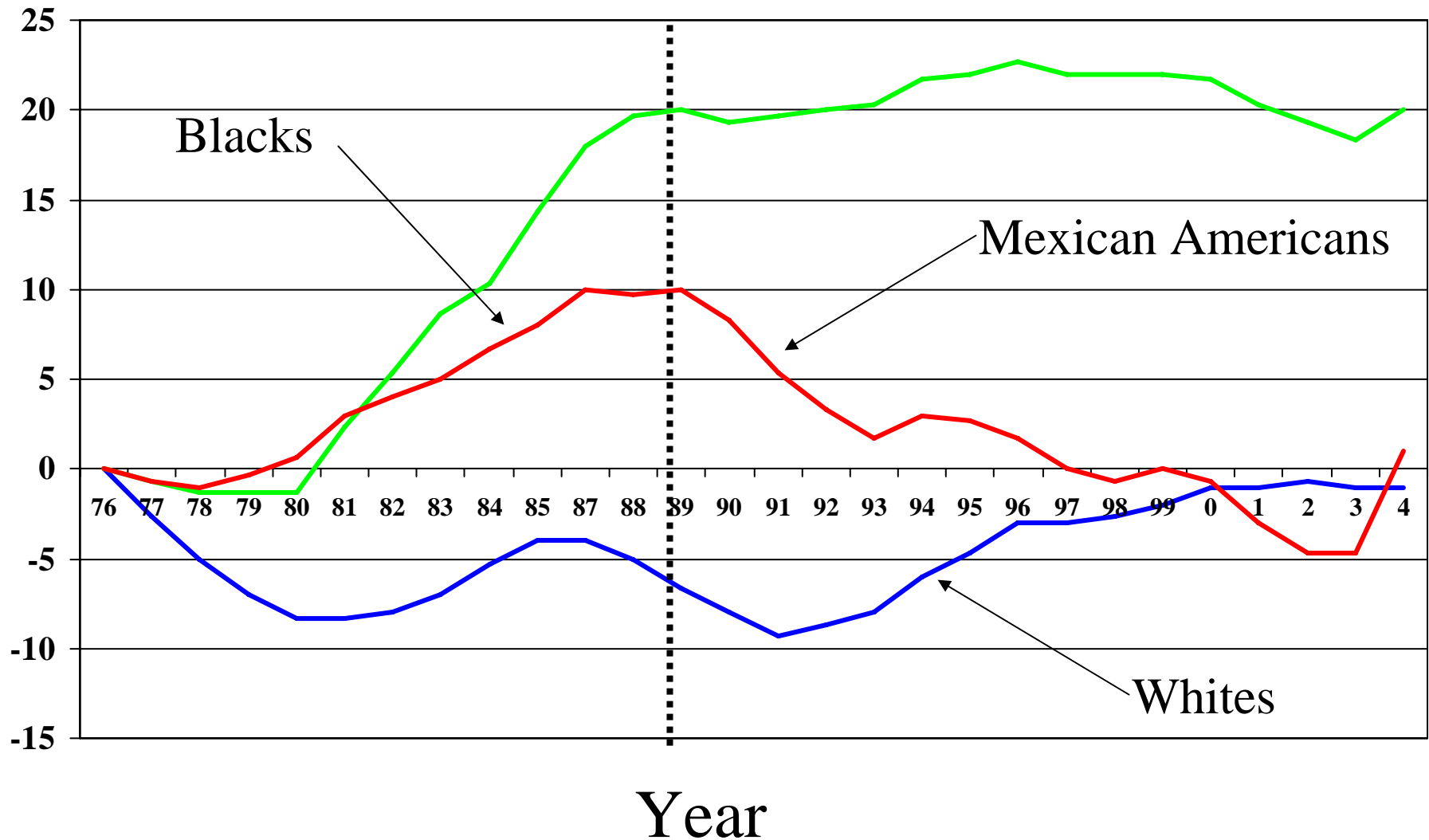
BLACKS

Math

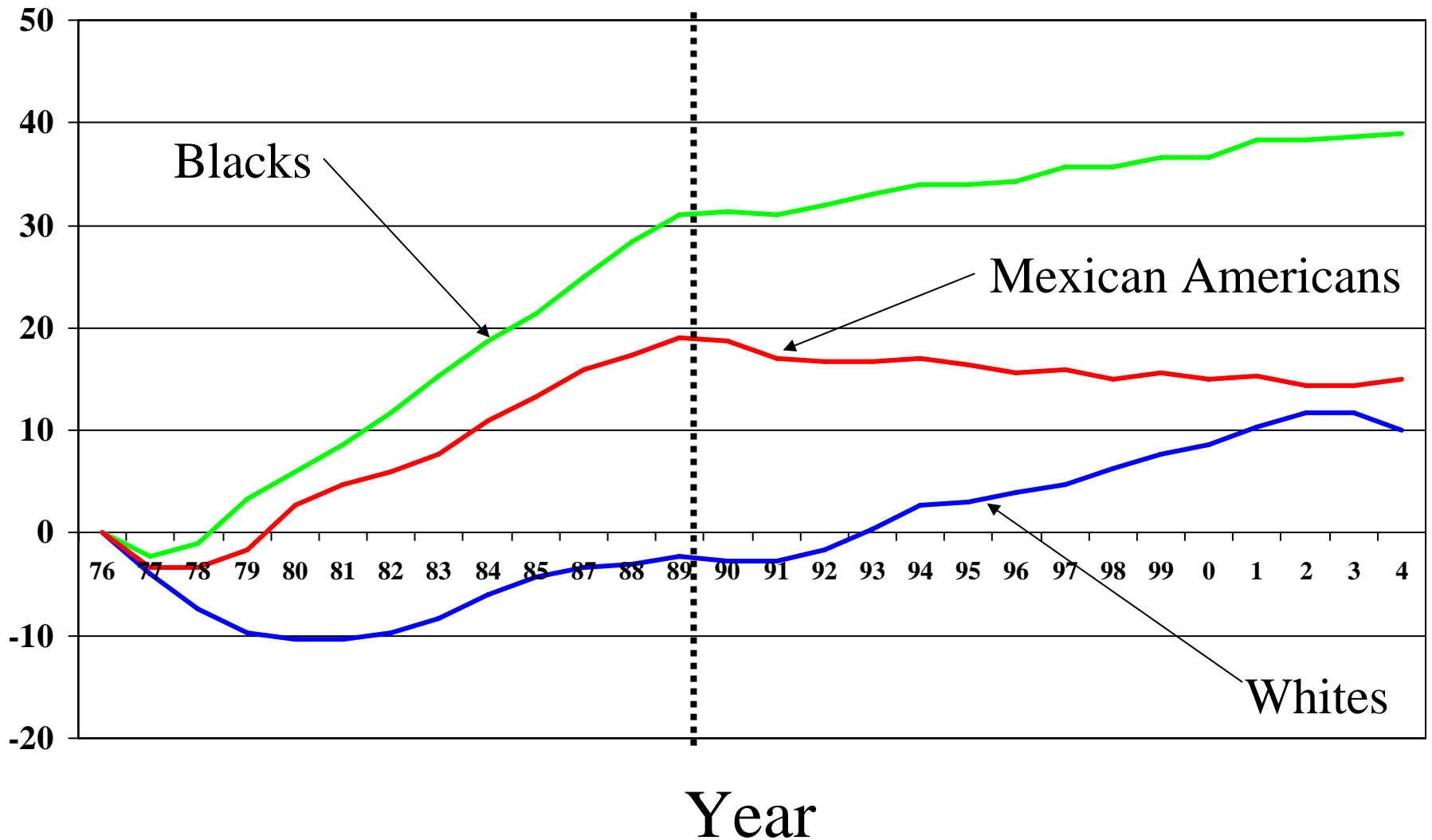


*Note: The horizontal axis is the approximate birth year.

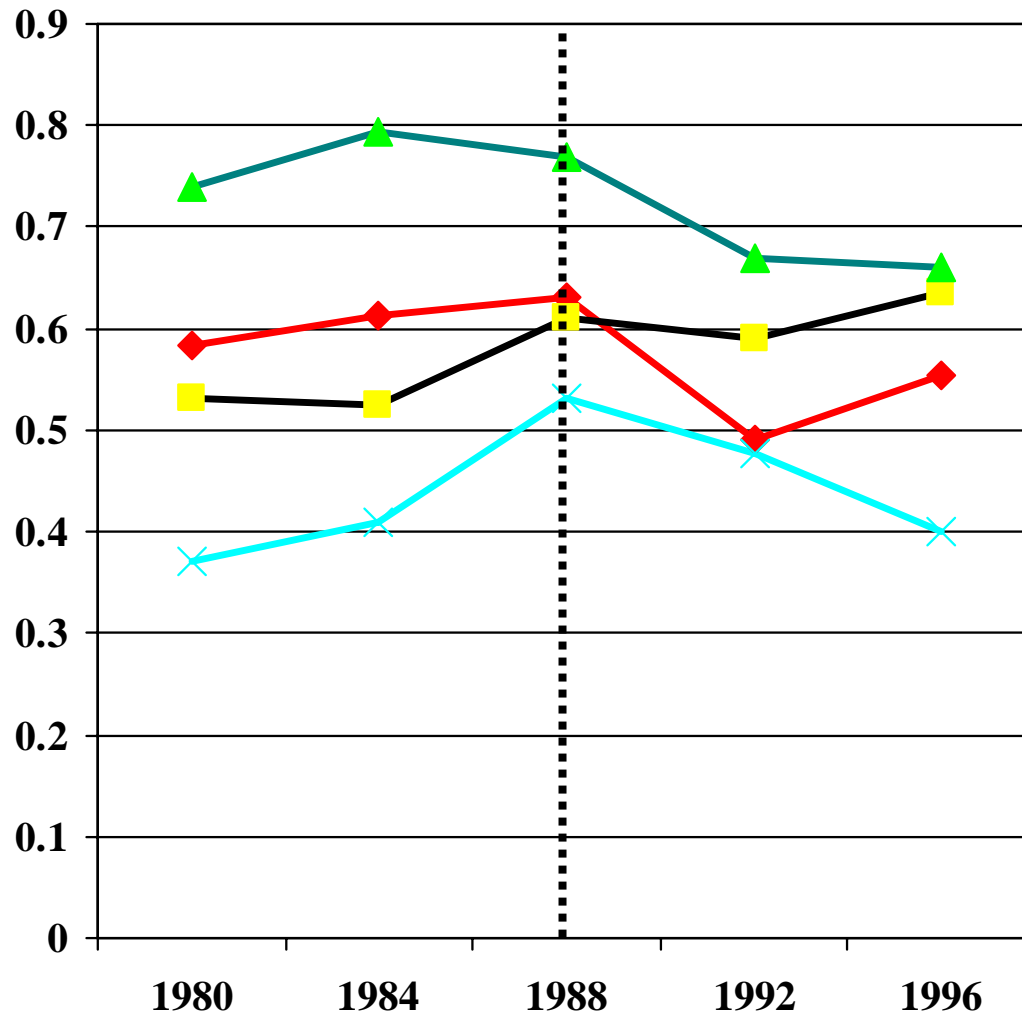
Changes 1976-2004 in SAT Scores by Racial/Ethnic Background. Re-centered in 1996. (Three-Year Moving Averages)



Changes 1976-2004 in SAT Math Scores by Racial/Ethnic Background. Re-centered in 1996. (Three-Year Moving Averages)

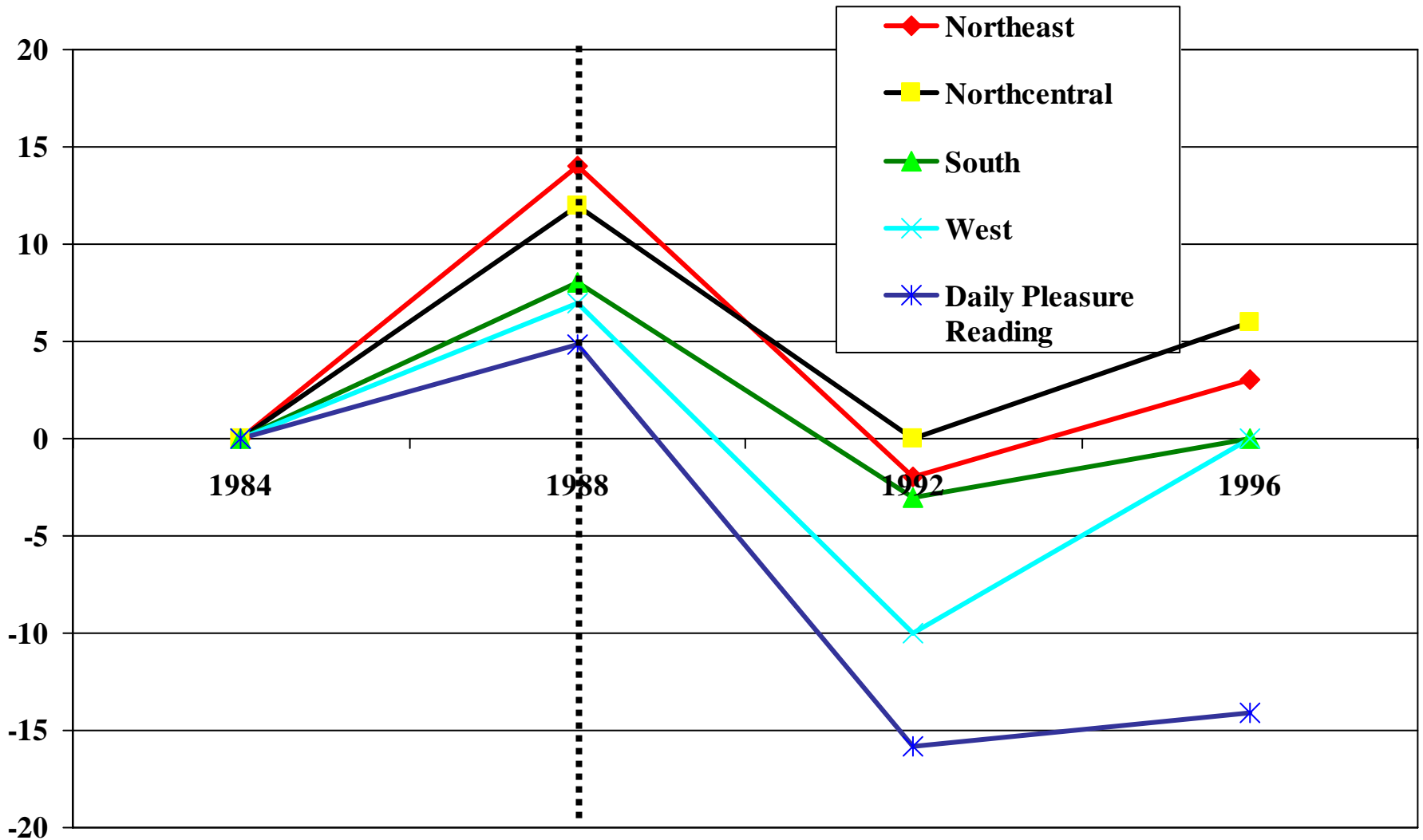


Proportions of African American 12th Graders who Report that they Never Cut Class, by Major U.S. Census Region



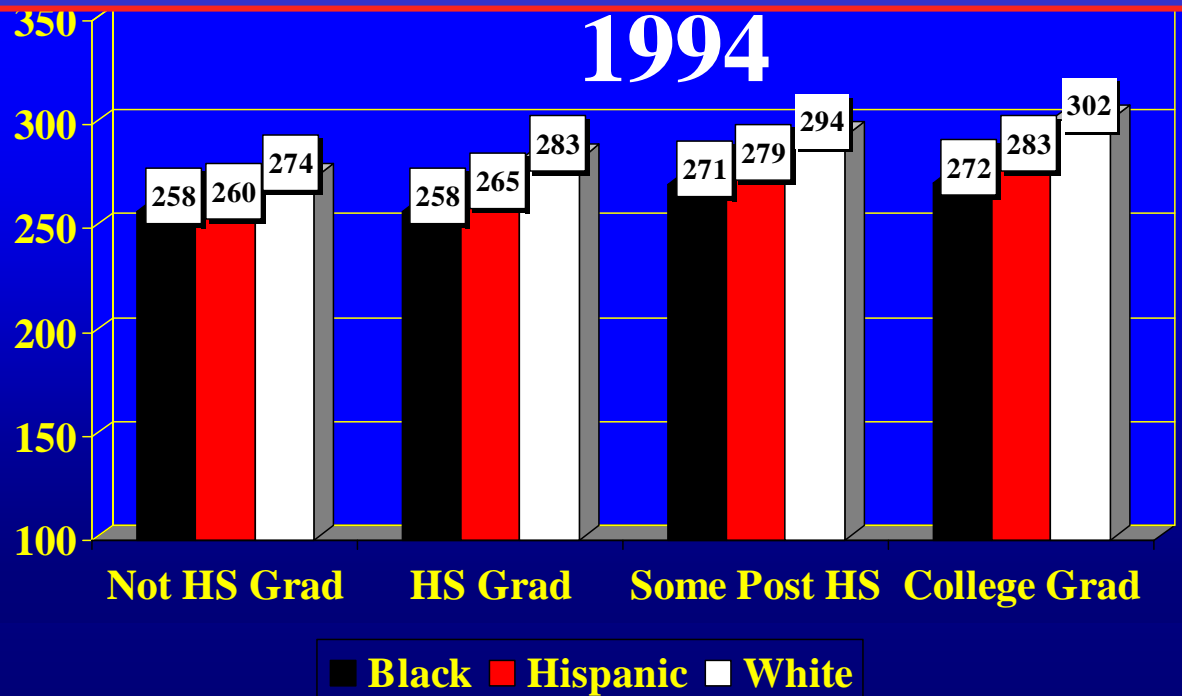
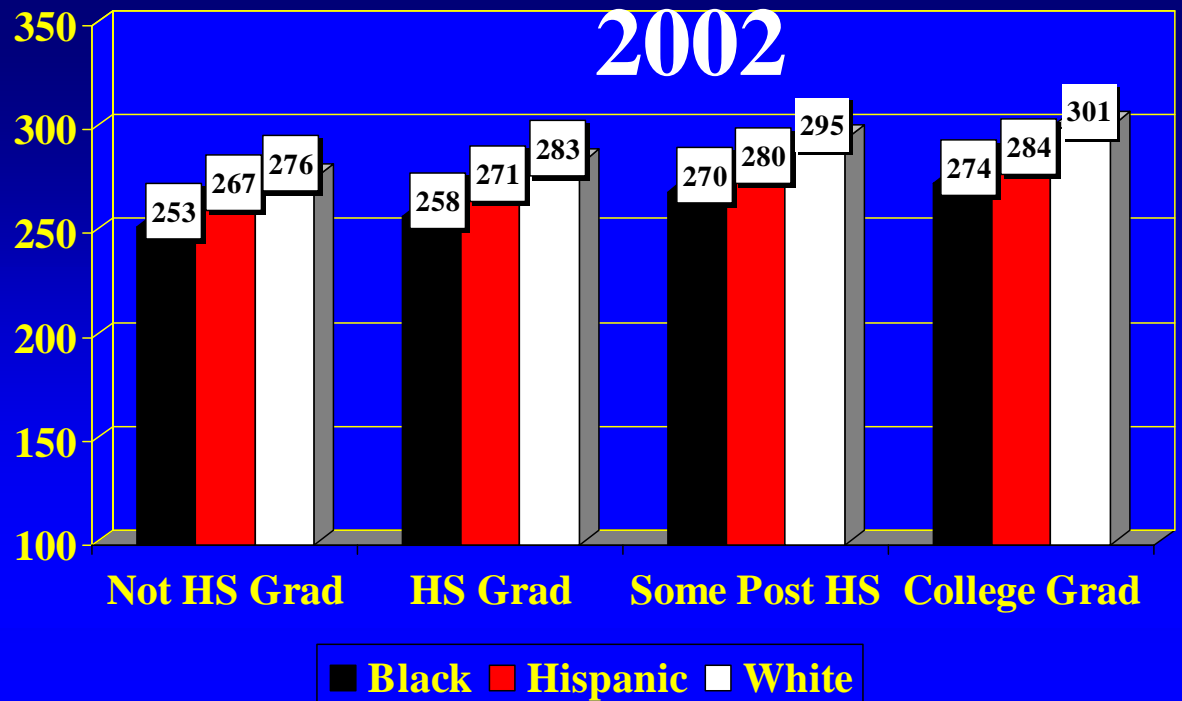
◆ Northeast ■ Northcentral ▲ South × West

Changes from 1984-1996 in black 17-year olds' mean NAEP reading scores, by region, and in the national percentage of black students who read daily or almost daily for pleasure

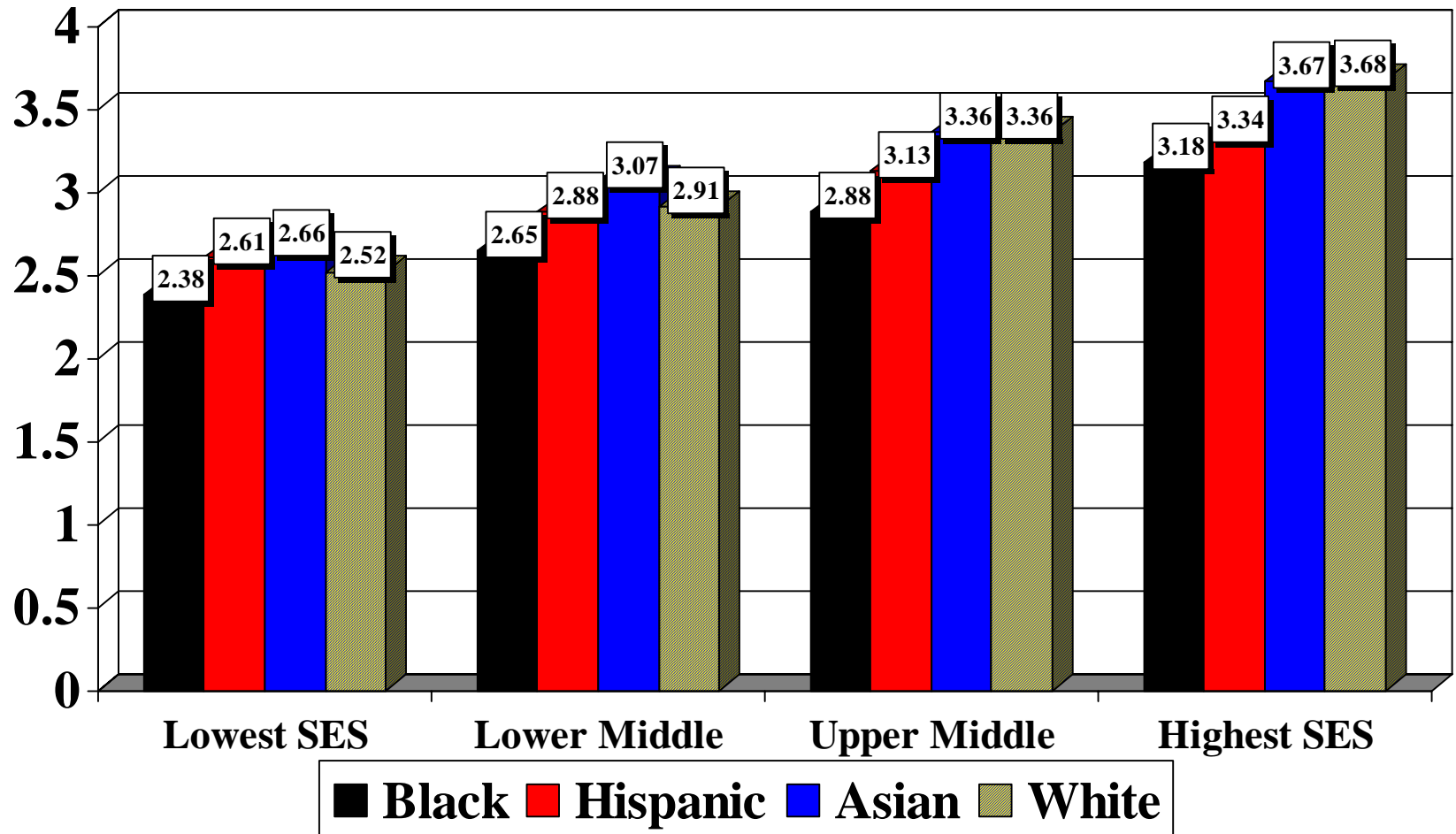


NAEP Reading Scores for 12th Graders in 1994 and 2002, by Parents' Level of Education

Source: NAEP Reading Report Card for the Nation, U.S. Department of Education, 2002 and 2004.



GPA levels simulated for four fixed SES profiles, using 7th to 11th grade SES and GPA patterns for race/ethnic groups from fall 2000 in fifteen Northeastern and Midwestern suburban school districts of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN).



From Table 4 of: Ronald F. Ferguson, "What Doesn't Meet the Eye: Understanding and Addressing Racial Disparities in High-Achieving Suburban Schools." November 2002. Available on the web site of the North Central Regional Education Laboratory (NCREL) <http://www.ncrel.org/gap/ferg/>. Also available at www.agi.harvard.edu.

Conclusions

- **Black-white and Hispanic-white gaps narrowed dramatically during the 1970s and 1980s, showing clearly that narrowing is possible.**
- **Progress for black and Hispanic teenagers stopped abruptly at the end of the 1980s, with an apparent (and unexplained) shift in youth culture among black teens: leisure reading levels and class attendance both fell.**
- **The birth cohort of black youth that was 13-years old in 1988 had the highest-ever NAEP reading scores as 13-year olds, but then extremely small reading gains by the time they were 17 in 1992. It may be just a coincidence, but 1988-92 was the commercial take-off period for hip-hop and rap music.**
- **The first few years of the present century have shown higher scores and smaller racial gaps in the NAEP at 4th and 8th grades, but not at the high school level.**
- **Finally, NAEP data from 1994 and 2002 show that remaining gaps among 12th graders are large at every level of parental education.**